

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Ronald Highland, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 561-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Highland:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2698 by House Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2698 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2698 would amend current law relating to bullying. The bill would prohibit bullying, harassment or cyberbullying of a public school student or employee. The board of each school district would be required to adopt a policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying. The policy would be developed through a process that includes representation of parents, employees, students, administrators and members of the local community. The policy would include provisions for the training and education of students and employees. The bill would outline what must be included in the policy such as definitions, description of behavior expected from students and employees, consequences and remedial action for a person who commits an act of bullying and procedures for reporting an act of bullying. The bill would outline the processes for reporting, investigation, consequences and appropriate remedial action in dealing with acts of bullying.

School districts would be required to provide a link to the policy posted on the district's homepage and distributed annually to parents who have children enrolled in the district. The link would contain the contact information for the person designated to receive reports of bullying and would also be maintained on the Department of Education's website. In addition, the policy would appear in any publication of the district that sets rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools within the district and in any student handbook.

Each school year at the local school board meetings held in December and June, the superintendent would be required to report on all acts of bullying that were reported during the preceding six-month period districtwide and by school in the district. The reports would be submitted to the State Board of Education within 30 days of the board meeting. If the State Board of Education would find any district not in compliance with the reporting requirement, the

school district would be notified of its noncompliance and have 30 days to become compliant. If compliance is not complete after 30 days, the State Board would be required to revoke the school district's accreditation.

On or before September 1, 2016, the State Board would be required to develop a model policy on bullying, harassment or cyberbullying applicable to grades kindergarten through 12 and include age-appropriation range of consequences for bullying, disciplinary action or counseling as appropriate under the circumstances. On or before November 1, 2016, each board of education would be required to revise its policy on bullying, harassment and cyberbullying, and submit a copy to the State Board of Education within 30 days of its adoption. Each district would be required annually to conduct a review and evaluation of their bullying policy and make any necessary revisions.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2016 SGF	FY 2016 All Funds	FY 2017 SGF	FY 2017 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$25,000	\$25,000
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	--

According to the Department of Education, enactment of HB 2698 would require additional expenditures of \$25,000, all from the State General Fund, for expenses associated with developing a model policy on bullying, harassment and cyberbullying. Also, for any school district found in noncompliance with its bullying policy by the State Board of Education, an administrative hearing would have to be held to revoke accreditation. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2698 is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education