

KANSAS OFFICE *of*
REVISOR *of* STATUTES

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS
Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.

300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson McGinn
Members of the Senate Committee on Local Government

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: March 5, 2024

Subject: HB 2587 – Authorizing executive sessions for drainage district boards of directors.

House Bill No. 2587 (HB 2587) would amend K.S.A. 24-416, which governs meetings for the boards of directors for drainage districts. Drainage districts may be established pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 24 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated to regulate watercourses within the district boundaries and structures related to such watercourses. Drainage districts are governed by a board of directors consisting of three members who are elected to their positions. Under current law the board of directors cannot meet in executive session for any reason.

HB 2587 would amend current law to authorize such boards to meet in executive session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. K.S.A. 75-4319 generally governs when a public body may meet in executive session. Such sessions are closed to the public and only certain topics of business may be discussed in such sessions, such as personnel matters and matters that are subject to attorney/client confidentiality between the public body and its legal counsel. No action may be taken by a governing body while it is in executive session. All requirements and prohibitions of the Open Meetings Act regarding executive sessions would apply to the board of directors of a drainage district.

If enacted, HB 2587 would become effective on July 1, 2024.