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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

From: Adam Siebers, Assistant Revisor

Date: February 7, 2024

Subject: Senate Bill No. 349

Summary

Senate Bill No. 349 requires the Secretary of Transportation to establish, implement and administer an intercity passenger rail service program to develop and provide funding in order to connect Kansas by rail to other member states of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, the Midwest Regional Rail System, the National Passenger Rail Network and any other passenger rail service operations serving Kansas. The Secretary shall provide funding for the costs of qualifying projects and provide operating support for Amtrak or any common rail carrier approved by the Federal Railroad Administration for operation of the service.

The bill further provides that commencing July 1, 2024, and each July 1 thereafter through July 1, 2034, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Director of the Budget, shall determine the amount of unencumbered moneys in the State General Fund, the State Highway Fund or any special revenue fund or funds of the Department of Transportation that may be used for the intercity passenger rail service program. The Director of Accounts and Reports shall transfer an aggregate amount of \$5,000,000 each fiscal year to the Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund.