

February 7, 2025

The Honorable Susan Estes, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 218-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Estes:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2142 by House Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2142 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

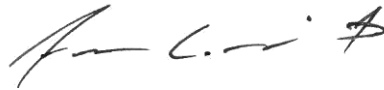
HB 2142 would allow any person who makes a report alleging bullying in a school district to request that the district conduct an independent review. The bill would outline beliefs by the accuser for the review if the person: (1) believes the school administrator did not correctly analyze the complaint; (2) is dissatisfied with the final determination of the school administrator following an investigation; or (3) believes that although a final determination was made that bullying occurred, the school's response was inadequate to correct the problem.

Any request would be required to be made in writing to the superintendent of a school district. The superintendent would be required to promptly notify the local board of education of the request. The local board of education could conduct its own review or direct the initiation of an independent review.

With the direction of the local board of education, or after the completion of the board's review, the superintendent would be required to promptly initiate an independent review by a neutral person. The school administrator and any other staff members would be required to cooperate with the independent review so that the review may proceed "expeditiously." The independent review would include an interview of the person who made the initial report and any relevant staff members, as well as a review of the written materials from the school administrator's investigation. Finally, the bill would require the local board of education to include in its policy and procedures for the independent review, as required by the bill.

The Department of Education indicates that the bill's enactment would have no fiscal effect on its operations or with state aid payments to school districts. The Kansas Association of School Boards indicates that the enactment of the bill would affect operations of local school boards by increasing the administrative oversight and review required for complaints related to bullying. In addition, there could be an additional cost for an independent review by a neutral person. However, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Gabrielle Hull, Department of Education
Angie Stallbaumer, Kansas Association of School Boards