

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Mike Thompson, Chairperson
House Committee on Veterans and Military
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 281-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Thompson:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2214 by House Committee on Veterans and Military

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2214 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

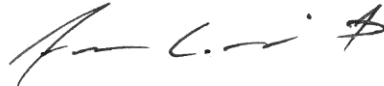
HB 2214 would enact the Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment Act which would prohibit compensation for certain types of activities and assistance related to veterans' benefits matters as detailed in the bill. The bill would make definitions, specify exceptions, and outline requirements for instances when compensation was allowed. The bill would state that violations of the Act would constitute an unfair, false, misleading or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce under KSA 50-623 and would allow for civil penalties for such violation.

According to the Kansas Office of Veterans Services, enactment of HB 2214 would not have a fiscal effect on the agency. The Office of Judicial Administration states enactment of HB 2214 could increase the number of cases filed in district courts because it allows the Attorney General to file a civil action. This could result in more time spent by judicial and nonjudicial personnel processing, researching, and hearing these cases. The Office estimates enactment of the bill could result in the collection of docket fees and fines assessed in those cases filed under the bill's provisions, which would be deposited to the State General Fund. The bill would not affect other revenues to the Judicial Branch. However, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

The Office of the Attorney General reports that enactment of HB 2214 could increase litigation costs for the agency but is unable to determine a total fiscal effect. The Office estimates that in addition to potential litigation costs, \$166,000 would be needed beginning in FY 2026, all from the State General Fund. The Office notes that civil actions brought by the Attorney General would require 1.00 FTE non-attorney position with salaries and wages totaling \$63,755, as well as

0.50 FTE attorney position totaling \$66,952. In addition, technology, training, and other administrative costs for these positions would total approximately \$35,293. Slight increases would be anticipated in future years. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2214 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

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: Melissa Ford, Office of Veterans Services
Trisha Morrow, Judiciary
Matt Bingesser, Office of the Attorney General