

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Bob Lewis, Chairperson
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 546-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Lewis:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2324 by House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2324 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2324 would increase the criminal penalties for possessing or refusing to surrender a firearm on school property or grounds. The penalty for possession of a firearm on school grounds would be increased from a Class B nonperson misdemeanor to a severity level 9, nonperson felony, and the penalty for refusing to surrender a firearm on school property would be increased from a class A nonperson misdemeanor to a severity level 8, nonperson felony. The bill would take effect on July 1, 2025.

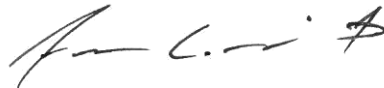
The Board of Indigents Defense Services indicates that the bill would increase agency expenditures on legal counsel and support staff by unknown amounts. The Board estimates that on average, a severity level 8 or 9, nonperson felony case requires 35 hours of direct work by an attorney to provide constitutionally adequate representation. Based on the rates of \$83.36 per hour for public defenders and \$125 per hour for assigned counsel, each new severity level 8 or 9, nonperson felony case brought to the agency would result in State General Fund expenditures of \$2,918 to \$4,375. The Board indicates that it may require 1.00 new FTE attorney position and possibly additional support staff depending on the number of new cases brought to the agency under the provisions of the bill.

The Sentencing Commission indicates that the bill has the potential to increase prison admissions and the number of prison beds needed by a negligible amount. The Department of Corrections indicates that the bill has the potential to increase agency operating expenditures by a

negligible amount that could be accommodated within existing resources. The Judiciary indicates that the bill would have no fiscal effect on its operations. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2324 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that the bill would have a negligible fiscal effect on county governments.

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: Heather Cessna, Board of Indigents Defense Services
Trisha Morrow, Judiciary
Jennifer King, Department of Corrections
Scott Schultz, Kansas Sentencing Commission
Jay Hall, Kansas Association of Counties
Wendi Stark, League of Kansas Municipalities