

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Michael Fagg, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Utilities
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 548-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Fagg:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 46 by Senator Ware

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 46 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 46 would enact the Blind Information Access Act. The bill would require the State Librarian to contract with an organization to deliver on-demand information access services to persons who are blind, visually impaired, deafblind, or print disabled. These services would include access to digital content through audio, electronic text, braille reading technologies, and other related services, including Kansas specific publications, national publications, international publications, breaking news sources, and localized emergency weather alerts. The bill would clarify that on-demand information access services would be provided using telecommunication services or internet services. The State Librarian would be required to submit, on or before November 1 of each year, a report to the Legislature and the State Corporation Commission that specifies an estimate of the cost to enter into a contract to provide on-demand information access services.

Also, the State Librarian would be required to certify the cost to the Director of Accounts and Reports and the Administrator of the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF). The amount certified would be transferred by the KUSF Administrator to the State Treasurer in the following calendar year by 12 equal monthly installment payments. Upon receipt of each payment, the State Treasurer would credit the total amount to the Blind Information Access Fund that would be created by the bill. Expenditures from the Blind Information Access Fund would be made to implement the bill's provisions and would be administered by the State Librarian. The State Librarian would be required to promote information access services to eligible individuals.

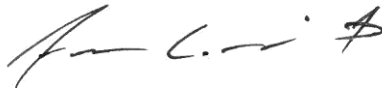
The State Library indicates the enactment of SB 46 would increase its annual expenditures by \$97,917 from the Blind Information Access Fund beginning in FY 2026 and \$100,000 in FY 2027. The agency's FY 2026 estimate includes \$30,500 to contract with an organization to deliver

on-demand information access services; \$52,917 for salaries and wages to fill an existing 1.00 FTE position to promote information access services to eligible individuals; and \$14,500 for expenses associated with outreach, periodical subscriptions, and administrative costs. A corresponding amount would be transferred by the KUSF Administrator to the State Treasurer for credit to the Blind Information Access Fund, which would be created by the bill.

The Division of the Budget notes that in the FY 2026 Governor's recommendation for the State Library, a total of \$95,399 from the State General Fund is included for the Blind Information Access Program. If SB 46 would be enacted, the State Library would not need the \$95,399 from the State General Fund appropriation for FY 2026 since the source of revenue would change and would come from a transfer from the Kansas Universal Service Fund to the Blind Information Access Fund.

The Kansas Corporation Commission indicates there would be no fiscal effect on agency operations resulting from the enactment of SB 46. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 46 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: Lynn Retz, Kansas Corporation Commission
Ray Walling, State Library