



March 12, 2026

The Honorable Renee Erickson, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Erickson:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 496 by Senate Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 496 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 496 would require the Board of Regents, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop materials, programs, and procedures for each postsecondary educational institution to provide annual training on the policies, guidelines, and duties of the institution regarding freedom of speech, association, and exercise of religion on the campus of each institution. The materials, programs, and procedures developed would include the Kansas Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, sections of the Bill of Rights of the *Kansas Constitution*, and the First Amendment to the *United States Constitution*.

As part of the required annual training, each postsecondary educational institution would provide the materials, programs and procedures to the following individuals to ensure that the policies, guidelines, and duties are understood:

1. Individuals responsible for discipline instruction of students;
2. Individuals responsible for the administration of the campus community; and
3. Individuals with oversight over student organizations or that distribute activity fee funds, including, any president, vice president, dean, department director, administrator, campus law enforcement officer, residence life official, faculty, and members of a student government organization.

Any other student, faculty, staff, or elected officials and the staff of elected officials would be allowed to attend any training programs or receive training materials. The Board of Regents would annually confirm to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Attorney General that each institution has provided the training required by the bill. The Attorney General may bring an action against the Board of Regents or any postsecondary educational institution to enforce compliance with the bill's provisions.

Fort Hays State University estimates the enactment of the bill would require additional State General Fund expenditures of \$4,000 in FY 2027 and \$2,000 in FY 2028. For the FY 2027 amount, \$2,000 would be one-time costs for training, delivering, and tracking. The remaining \$2,000 would be for other operating expenditures to comply with the bill's provisions and would be ongoing.

Emporia State University indicates any fiscal effect resulting from the bill's enactment would be absorbed within existing resources.

Pittsburg State University estimates ongoing additional State General Fund expenditures of \$20,000 in both FY 2027 and FY 2028 for programming, materials, and staff time to implement the bill's provisions.

Kansas State University estimates additional State General Fund expenditures of \$90,000 in FY 2027 and \$30,000 in FY 2028 if the bill is enacted. Of the FY 2027 amount, the entire amount would be for one-time costs, including \$50,000 for policy review and updates, \$25,000 for training, and \$15,000 for reporting and tracking. For FY 2028, \$30,000 would be for ongoing expenditures, including \$15,000 for training, \$10,000 to compile information for annual reporting, and \$5,000 for system maintenance.

Both the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas Medical Center each estimate additional State General Fund expenditures of \$198,000 in FY 2027 and \$171,000 in FY 2028 if the bill is enacted. Of the FY 2027 amount, \$27,000 would be for a one-time expenditure to create a training program. The remaining \$171,000 would be ongoing expenditures for all employees to take the training program annually.

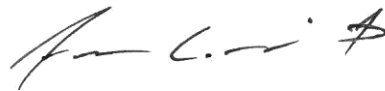
Wichita State University estimates additional State General Fund expenditures of between \$13,790 and \$22,420 in FY 2027 and \$8,890 and \$15,220 in FY 2028 resulting from the bill's enactment. Of the FY 2027 amount, between \$4,900 and \$7,200 would be for one-time expenditures for current staff for compliance and policy updates, training, reporting, and legal review. Ongoing expenditures would total between \$8,890 and \$15,220 for current staff to comply with the bill's provisions.

The Board of Regents states any fiscal effect resulting from the bill's enactment could be absorbed within existing resources; however, the Board states the bill's enactment could have a fiscal effect on postsecondary educational institutions related to developing, delivering, tracking, training, and as well as legal and policy review. The Board did not estimate a fiscal effect.

The Office of the Attorney General states the bill's enactment would require the agency to consult in developing training materials and programs, review of annual compliance certifications, and bring potential enforcement actions against the Board of Regents or postsecondary educational institutions. To carry out the bill's provisions, the agency estimates additional State General Fund expenditures of \$145,562 in FY 2027 and \$149,928 in FY 2028, along with an additional FTE position if the bill is enacted for both fiscal years. Of the FY 2027 amount, \$133,905 would be for salaries and wages for an additional 1.0 FTE Assistant Attorney General position and \$11,657 would be for other operating expenditures to implement the bill's provisions. Of the FY 2028 amount, \$138,271 would be for the salaries and wages for the Assistant Attorney General position and \$11,657 would be for other operating expenditures.

The Office of Judicial Administration states enactment of the bill could increase the number of cases filed in district courts because it allows the Attorney General to bring a court action to enforce compliance, which would increase the time spent by judges and court employees processing and deciding cases. The Office indicates enactment of the bill could result in the collection of docket fees in those cases filed under the bill's provisions, which would be deposited into the State General Fund. The Office did not estimate a fiscal effect. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 496 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt", followed by a stylized flourish or symbol.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Matt Bingesser, Office of the Attorney General
Becky Pottebaum, Board of Regents
Trisha Morrow, Judiciary
Wesley Wintch, Fort Hays State University
Angela Wolgram, Emporia State University
Douglas Ball, Pittsburg State University
Stephanie McDowell, Kansas State University
Jeff Dewitt, University of Kansas
Gail Gottlieb, KU Medical Center
Lyndsay Pletcher, Wichita State University