

March 22, 2011

The Honorable Mark Taddiken, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Statehouse, Room 223-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Taddiken:

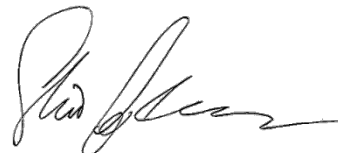
SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 148 by Senate Committee on Agriculture

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 148 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 148 would change current law regarding veterinarian-client confidentiality into a “privilege.” The bill would outline conditions when an individual, whether or not a party to a lawsuit, has a privilege in a civil action or in a prosecution for a misdemeanor to refuse to disclose information regarding a veterinarian-client relationship. In addition, the bill provides that providing false information to a veterinarian for the purpose of obtaining a prescription-only drug would not be considered a confidential veterinarian-client communication.

The Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners indicates that enactment of SB 148 would result in the agency having to get a court-ordered subpoena in order to obtain veterinary medical records for its investigations. This would require additional time and expense for the agency. However, the agency does not provide an estimate of the additional costs that it would incur. The Board of Pharmacy and the Kansas State University—Veterinary Medical College both report the bill would have no fiscal effect. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 148 is not reflected in *The FY 2012 Governor’s Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Debra Billingsley, Pharmacy
Cindy Bontrager, Kansas State University
Cheryl Mermis, Veterinary Examiners