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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Johnson and members of the House Committee on Pensions and Benefits

From: David Wiese, Assistant Revisor

Date: 3/9/2016

Subject: HB 2709; Death benefits for certain KP&F surviving spouses.

House Bill No. 2709 provides that upon the death from service-connected causes of a KP&F member prior to retirement, the member's spouse receives an annual spouse's benefit equal to the greater of:

1. 50% of the member's final average salary; or
2. The amount that would have been paid had the member elected the joint and survivor retirement benefit option and retired as of the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date of death.

The bill also provides that the benefits payable to the surviving spouse or to any children shall not exceed 90% of the member's final average salary instead of the current 75% limit.

For deaths from causes not service-connected of a member prior to retirement, the spouse continues to receive an annual death benefit not to exceed an amount equal to 50% of the member's final average salary.