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MEMORANDUM

To:	Chairman Abrams
	Members of the Senate Committee on Education
From:	Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor
Date:	February 2, 2016
Subject:	SB 357 – Longitudinal reading programs study.

Senate Bill No. 357 requires the Kansas Department of Education to conduct a study of longitudinal reading programs provided by private vendors to school districts across the state. Longitudinal reading programs generally provide additional academic support to assist students meeting standards for reading at grade level. These programs can be utilized over a period of years so as to provide long-term support to the student.

First, the Department is to develop criteria and administration protocols for such programs. The bill provides guidance on the criteria and protocols the Department is to develop. These can be found on page 1 of the bill in lines 10 through 27. Based on these criteria and protocols, the Department will then issue an RFP for such programs. The Department is to select not less than three vendors and enter into contracts with those vendors for the provision of these programs.

Beginning with school year 2017-2018, each school district is required to select one of the programs provided by a vendor selected by the Department. The school district is to utilize the reading program for at least five years.

Starting January 1, 2018, and each January 1 thereafter, each school district is to submit a report to the Department on the use of the reading program and reading score data. The Department is then required to compile the reports into a statewide report for submission to the Governor and the standing committees on education.

The reading programs are to be funded by specific appropriation by the Legislature. SB 357 contains a provision that prioritizes continued use of the reading programs if the appropriations are subsequently reduced in the future.