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

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Barker
Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor

Date: March 5, 2018

Subject: HB 2719 – KP&F Retirement System; definition of service-connected.

House Bill No. 2719 (HB 2719) amends K.S.A. 74-4952, which establishes the relevant definitions for the Kansas Police and Firemen's Retirement System. (KP&F). Under the KP&F members receive certain benefits if the member becomes retired as a result of a total or partial disability that is due to service-connected causes. K.S.A. 74-4952 currently provides that there is a rebuttable presumption that certain causes of death or disability are service-connected if the member has at least five years of service. Currently, such service-connected causes include heart disease, lung or respiratory tract disease, or cancer.

HB 2719 amends the definition of "service-connected" to also include contraction of hepatitis C. The bill also specifies the following types of cancer: Brain, skin, digestive system, hematological system, or genitourinary system.

With respect to hepatitis C as a service-connected cause, HB 2719 also requires the member report the exposure to hepatitis C within two days after the member reasonably should have known about the exposure. The member must then submit to a baseline test, and such test must show that the member was not infected at the time of the on-the-job exposure. Finally, the member must comply with all reasonable and necessary medical procedures and testing must show the member has hepatitis C within two years after the on-the-job exposure.

With respect to cancer as a service-connected cause, HB 2719 strikes the requirement that the cancer be of a type which generally results from exposure to heat, radiation, or a known carcinogen. This requirement is replaced with the specific list of the types of cancers that may be service-connected causes of death or disability. Additionally, the member must have a prior physical examination, either at the time the person became a policeman or fireman, or

afterwards, that fails to show any substantial evidence of any such cancer prior to such member's employment.

If enacted, HB 2719 would become effective on July 1, 2018.