LEGISLATURE of THE STATE of KANSAS

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MEMORANDUM

To:

Chairman Huebert

Members of the House Committee on Education

From:

Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor

Date:

February 10, 2020

Subject:

HB 2572 – Educator Protection Act

House Bill No. 2572 (HB 2572) would create the Educator Protection Act (Act). The purpose of the Act is to provide excess professional liability insurance coverage for teachers and student teachers in Kansas. Currently, teachers employed by a school district have liability protection coverage through their employer under the Kansas Tort Claims Act. Teachers may also have liability protection coverage through their teachers' union. The Act would provide a third level of liability coverage.

The Act establishes the Kansas Educator Liability fund in the state treasury. The fund is to be administered by the Commissioner of Insurance. The Commissioner is charged with implementing the provisions of the Act, including establishing the types of insurance coverage and limits necessary and the effective date of such coverage, entering into contracts for purchasing such insurance coverage and administering the policies, and administering the claims process.

Insurance coverage under the Act applies to all licensed teachers and all student teachers holding a student teacher certificate. The extent of the insurance coverage is subject to appropriations made for the fund.

If enacted, HB 2572 would become effective on July 1, 2020.