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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Huebert
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor

Date: February 12, 2020

Subject: HB 2519 – Students' Right to Know Act

House Bill No. 2519 (HB 2519) would create the Students' Right to Know Act (Act). The purpose of the Act is to compile and present information on postsecondary education options for students graduating from high school in Kansas.

The Act is to be administered by the Department of Education. The Department is charged with compiling all of the necessary information and may enter into memorandums of understanding with other state agencies, such as the Board of Regents, and other entities as necessary to obtain such information.

First, the Act requires the Department to annually prepare and publish a Student Graduate Horizon Scorecard (SGHS). The SGHS would consist of lists of the college courses of study with the highest starting salaries, the occupations identified by the Department of Labor as having the highest need, and the enlistment rate, base salary, and necessary exam scores for each branch of the U.S. military. The SGHS would be distributed each year to each public high school in the state.

Second, the Act requires the Department to create and annually update a Student Horizon Database (SHD). The SHD is intended to serve as an online tool for students to access and compare data about various colleges and postsecondary educational programs. The SHD is required to have a function whereby a person may select a specific course of study at a particular institution and receive a generated response containing the following information: The graduation or completion rate, average employment rate upon graduation, average starting salary upon graduation, average total cost of the course of study, average student loan debt upon graduation, and average student loan debt for students who do not graduate.