

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Molly Baumgardner, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Education  
Statehouse, Room 445B-S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Baumgardner:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 185 by Senate Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 185 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

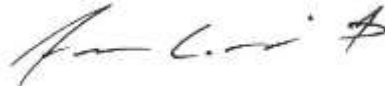
SB 185 would require the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) to establish a sign language interpreter registration process, similar to professional licensing, and would require background checks. KCDHH could also sponsor and charge fees for continuing education programs. The KCDHH would:

1. Collect registration and background check fees to offset costs of registering, licensing, and background checks for interpreters;
2. Establish guidelines for communications access services, such as video remote interpreting and real-time captioning; and
3. Propose rules and regulations related to sign language interpreter services.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2021 SGF	FY 2021 All Funds	FY 2022 SGF	FY 2022 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	\$25,085
Expenditure	--	--		\$25,085
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	--

The Department for Children and Families (DCF) indicates SB 185 would require the KCDHH to expend approximately \$25,085 in fee revenue to conduct background and abuse registry checks. Additional fees could be used to support training, program administration and other functions and priorities as specified in SB 185. KCDHH estimates fee fund revenue from registration fees of \$19,385 per year for 389 interpreters. The KCDHH has adopted a fee schedule, including \$100 for initial registration and renewal every two years, and lesser fees for temporary or provisional registrations. Background check fees totaling \$5,700 are expected to be collected from 95 interpreters, based on the rates currently established by the DCF. Nearly 300 interpreters would be exempt from background checks because their employing agencies already have background check requirements, or they qualify for other exemptions established by KCDHH. In addition, the agency states that approximately \$15,000 of salaries and wages expenditures in its existing budget would be utilized to support the new licensing requirements of the KCDHH. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 185 is not reflected in *The FY 2022 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Proffitt  
Director of the Budget

cc: Kim Holter, Children & Families