

KANSAS OFFICE *of*  
**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chairperson Thompson  
Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: January 11, 2024

Subject: SB 36 – Including hair texture and protective hairstyles to the Kansas Act Against Discrimination.

Senate Bill No. 36 (SB 36) would amend the Kansas Act Against Discrimination (KAAD) to clarify the term “ancestry” as a protected class. Current state law includes race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, and ancestry as protected classes under the KAAD and individuals cannot be discriminated against on the basis of any those classes. SB 36 would add a definition of “ancestry” to the KAAD to clarify that the term is inclusive of traits historically associated with a person’s ancestry and includes hair texture and protective hairstyles. The bill also defines “protective hairstyles” as including braids, locs, and twists. Section 2 of the bill applies these same definitions to the provisions of the KAAD regarding discrimination in real estate transactions.

If enacted, SB 36 would become effective on July 1, 2024.