

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Molly Baumgardner, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Baumgardner:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 401 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 401 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 401 would require “critical thinking” to be integrated into all instruction areas for students in kindergarten through grade 12. “Critical thinking” would be defined as “the intellectually disciplined process of skillfully synthesizing, conceptualizing, and evaluating information as a guide to belief and behavior.”

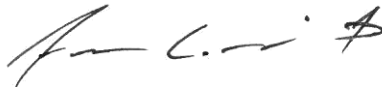
The State Board would be required to: (1) develop and maintain a list of recommended critical thinking educational instructional materials; (2) develop standards and resources for school districts to utilize in integrating critical thinking into curriculum and instruction; (3) provide professional development materials on critical thinking instruction; and (4) review and update critical thinking materials periodically. Local boards of education would be required to integrate critical thinking into all subject areas.

The Department of Education would be required to provide annually a report to the House of Representatives and the Senate standing committees on education on the implementation of critical thinking in school districts.

The Department of Education indicates that the enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on state aid to school districts. The Division of the Budget notes that any additional administrative duties associated with the bill’s implementation would be performed by the

Department's existing staff. The Kansas Association of School Boards states that the bill would have administrative costs for school districts, including acquiring appropriate curriculum and training for school staff; however, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

Sincerely,

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

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Gabrielle Hull, Department of Education
Angie Stallbaumer, Kansas Association of School Boards