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MEMORANDUM

To:Senate Committee on UtilitiesFrom:Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of StatutesDate:March 14, 2024Subject:Bill Brief - Senate Bill 284

Senate Bill 284 would establish the blind information access act which would require the state librarian to enter into a contract with an entity that delivers on-demand digital information access services to person who are blind, visually impaired, deafblind, print disabled or who have another disability. Such services shall provide access to digital content through internet or telecommunications services using audio, electronic text and braille reading technologies. Such digital content includes, but is not limited to, Kansas publications, national publications, international publications, breaking news sources and localized emergency weather alerts.

Each year, the state librarian would be required to estimate and then certify the costs for the provision of such services. Upon the state librarian's certification of such amount, the administrator of the Kansas universal service fund would be required to transfer such amount from the Kansas universal service fund to the blind information access fund which would be established by SB 284 for such purpose.

SB 284 would also amend K.S.A. 66-2010 to require the transfers of Kansas universal service funds in accordance with the requirements of the act.

If enacted, SB 284 would take effect on July 1, 2024.