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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 12, 2020
Re: Senate Bill No. 484

Current law prohibits the Secretary for Children and Families from requesting a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the time-limited assistance provisions under food assistance for able-bodied adults without dependents in the household.

Senate Bill No. 484 would allow the Secretary to request such a waiver for an area if the Secretary can establish that there are insufficient jobs for the employment of such individuals using standards that are not less restrictive than standards currently found in federal regulations. Those standards in 7 C.F.R. § 273.24(f)(2) provide that such a waiver will be granted if the state satisfies one of the following requirements:

"(i) To support a claim of unemployment over 10 percent, a State agency may submit evidence that an area has a recent 12 month average unemployment rate over 10 percent; a recent three month average unemployment rate over 10 percent; or an historical seasonal unemployment rate over 10 percent; or

(ii) To support a claim of lack of sufficient jobs, a State may submit evidence that an area: is designated as a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA); is determined by the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service as qualifying for extended unemployment benefits; has a low and declining employment-to-population ratio; has a lack of jobs in declining occupations or industries; is described in an academic study or other publications as an area where there are lack of jobs; has a 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. This 24-month period may not be any earlier than the same 24-month period the ETA uses to designate LSAs for the current fiscal year."

If enacted, SB 484 would take effect upon publication in the Kansas Register.