

February 13, 2019

The Honorable Brenda Landwehr, Chairperson  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Statehouse, Room 352-S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Landwehr:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for HB 2155 by House Committee on Health and Human Services

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2155 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2155 would establish the Office of State Medical Examiner in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to work with the coroner, funeral director and forensic pathology community to standardize processes and improve quality of death investigations and certifications. This position would not be conducting autopsies, but would focus on policy development and quality improvement. Activities would include required training for coroners, development of an advisory committee and development of rules and regulations to implement the act. KDHE would be authorized to fine a person if the agency determines that the person knowingly refused to comply with the Uniform Vital Statistics Act.

KDHE indicates enactment of HB 2155 would have a fiscal effect on expenditures of the agency for FY 2020 and beyond. The agency would need \$327,110 from all funding sources, including \$163,555 from the State General Fund in FY 2020 for salary, fringe benefits and other operating expenses for 1.00 Forensic Pathologist FTE position and 1.00 Data Analyst FTE position. Of this total, the agency estimates that the salary and fringe expenditures to be \$235,000 with other operating expenditures would be \$92,110. KDHE also indicates that there could be additional revenue from fines, but assumes the revenue would be minimal as it could take several notices to the individual to issue a fine and that the process would need to be determined by the establishment of rules and regulations.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that enactment of HB 2155 would increase county expenditures for training and finding qualified individuals, but cannot determine a precise fiscal effect. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2155 is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. L. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Larry L. Campbell  
Director of the Budget

cc: Dan Thimmesch, Health & Environment