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Laura Kelly, Governor

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Kellie Warren, Chairperson Senate Committee on Judiciary 300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 346-S Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Warren:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 292 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 292 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 292 would allow the Adjutant General, with the Governor's approval, to appoint a state military forces officer as State Judge Advocate, with the rank of Colonel. The Adjutant General could appoint as many assistants to the State Judge Advocate as deemed necessary. The Adjutant General, with the approval of the Governor, could promote a state Judge Advocate to the rank of Brigadier General if the Judge Advocate has served 20 or more years of combined services in the Kansas National Guard and the United States military forces and has held the rank of Colonel for at least 10 years. Under current law, the Adjutant General can appoint two Assistant Adjutant Generals. The bill would allow the Adjutant General to assign the number of Assistant Adjutant Generals and update the duties of the Assistants. The bill would provide for a United States Property and Disbursing Officer that would serve the needs of the organized militia at the discretion of the Adjutant General.

The bill would increase the monthly benefits for National Guard members who become disabled while on active duty called by the Governor. The bill would also increase the funeral expenses and monthly death benefits for National Guard members and their surviving spouse and children, if called to active duty by the Governor. The bill would allow the Military Disability Board, starting July 1, 2024, to adjust these benefits annually. The bill would also make technical corrections and would delete or update outdated language.

The Adjutant General's Department states that these benefits are typically paid with state disaster funds, which is appropriated to pay for the state's share of disaster costs. The bill would only have a fiscal effect if a disability or death occurs. However, a fiscal effect cannot be

estimated. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 292 is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

Adam Proffitt

Director of the Budget

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cc: Michael Neth, Office of the Adjutant General