

January 27, 2023

The Honorable Adam Thomas, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 218-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Thomas:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2157 by Representative Garber

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2157 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

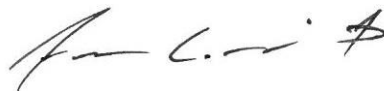
HB 2157 would create the Campus Intellectual Diversity Act. The bill would require the governing body or Chief Administrative Officer at each public postsecondary educational institution to establish, fund, and staff an Office of Public Policy Events for the purpose of:

1. Organizing a substantial number of debates, group forums and individual lectures;
2. Obtaining the participation of speakers who represent widely held views on opposing sides of the most widely discussed public policy issues of the day; and
3. Inviting and hosting speakers who can ably articulate opposing and widely held perspectives on public policy issues.

The bill would outline the responsibilities of each institution's Office of Public Policy Events. The governing body or Chief Administrative Officer may assign the duties and responsibilities of the Office to an existing administrative office providing the administrative head is designated as the Director of Public Policy Events. The Office would report directly to the Office of General Counsel. The bill would require all debates, group forums and individual lectures organized by the Office to be open to all students, faculty and staff at the postsecondary educational institution and to the general public, unless there is a compelling governmental interest and restricting attendance by persons unaffiliated with the postsecondary educational institution is necessary to achieve such compelling governmental interest. The bill would include definitions for debate, group forum, and postsecondary educational institution.

The Board of Regents indicates HB 2157 would require all 33 public postsecondary educational institutions in Kansas to establish an Office of Public Policy Events with annual costs to the State General Fund of \$6.8 million to \$10.9 million systemwide. The estimate includes \$3.3 million to \$5.0 million for salaries and wages for 49.50 FTE positions, including \$100,000 to \$150,000 for 1.50 FTE positions at each institution; \$165,000 for operating expenses, including \$5,000 at each institution; and \$3.3 million to \$5.8 million for event and speaker-related expenses, including \$100,000 to \$175,000 at each institution. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2157 is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt", followed by a stylized flourish or symbol.

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Becky Pottebaum, Board of Regents