

March 22, 2023

REVISED

The Honorable Robert Olson, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Utilities
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 548-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Olson:

SUBJECT: Revised Fiscal Note for SB 284 by Senate Committee on Ways and Means

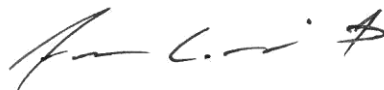
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following revised fiscal note concerning SB 284 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 284 would enact the Blind Information Access Act. The bill would require the State Librarian to contract with an organization to deliver on-demand information access services to persons who are blind, visually impaired, deafblind, print disabled or who have another disability. These services would include access to digital content through audio, electronic text and braille reading technologies and other related services, including Kansas specific publications, national publications, international publications, breaking news sources and localized emergency weather alerts. The bill would clarify that on-demand information access services would be provided using telecommunication services or internet services. The State Librarian would be required to submit, on or before January 8, 2024, a report to the Legislature that specifies an estimate of the cost to enter into a contract to provide on-demand information access services.

On March 15, 2024, and on March 15 each year thereafter, the State Librarian would be required to certify the cost to enter into or renew a contract to the Director of Accounts and Reports and the administrator of the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF). The amount certified would be transferred by the KUSF administrator to the State Treasurer and credited to the Blind Information Access Fund that would be created by the bill. Expenditures from the Blind Information Access Fund would be made to implement the provisions of this bill in accordance with appropriation acts. The State Librarian would be required to promote information access services to eligible individuals. The bill would take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

The State Library indicates the enactment of SB 284 would increase its annual expenditures by \$99,000 from the Blind Information Access Fund beginning in FY 2024. The agency's estimate includes \$30,000 to contract with an organization to deliver on-demand information access services; \$54,000 in salaries and wages for 1.00 FTE position to promote information access services to eligible individuals; and \$15,000 for expenses associated with outreach, periodical subscriptions, and administrative costs. The Kansas Corporation Commission indicates any fiscal effect on its operations resulting from the enactment of SB 284 would be negligible. When the fiscal note was originally issued the State Library indicated the costs to promote information access services would require an appropriation from the State General Fund. The fiscal note has been updated to reflect all costs being funded from the Blind Information Access Fund. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 284 is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Jennifer Ragsdale, Office of the State Library