February 27, 2019

The Honorable Bud Estes, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Statehouse, Room 136-E
Topeka, Kansas  66612

Dear Senator Estes:

SUBJECT:  Fiscal Note for SB 64 by Senator Holland

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 64 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 64 would require the Attorney General to petition the chief judge of any district court to order a state grand jury to be summoned if the Attorney General finds that a person has been a victim of or a witness to sexual abuse committed by a minister of religion. The chief judge or their designee would then be required to order a grand jury to be summoned that has jurisdiction to investigate and indict for crimes committed anywhere in the state. The bill would allow individuals to request an inquiry and investigation by the Attorney General by filing a statement under penalty of perjury alleging that the person was a victim of or a witness to sexual abuse committed by a minister of religion. The bill would authorize the Attorney General to petition a district judge to conduct an inquisition or to petition for a state grand jury to be convened.

The Office of the Attorney General indicates that enactment of SB 64 would result in $157,719 in additional expenditures from the State General Fund in FY 2020 to hire 1.00 Assistant Attorney General FTE position to prosecute sexual abuse cases. Included in this amount is $127,750 in salaries and wages; $27,269 in contractual services for office rent, travel expenses, information technology costs, professional licensing and training; and $2,700 in commodities for office furnishings and supplies. The agency states there may be additional investigative or grand jury costs if the bill is enacted, but this fiscal effect cannot be estimated because the number of cases that would be filed is unknown.
The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that enactment of SB 64 may require the agency to build the capacity to create a statewide jury pool into its case management system. However, the fiscal effect cannot be estimated. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 64 is not reflected in The FY 2020 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Campbell
Director of the Budget

cc: Willie Prescott, Office of the Attorney General
    Janie Harris, Judiciary