

February 19, 2014

The Honorable Mario Goico, Chairperson
House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security
Statehouse, Room 276-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Goico:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2681 by House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2681 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2681 would abolish the five-member Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs and create in its place the Kansas Executive Director of Veterans Affairs. All powers, duties and functions of the Commission would be transferred to the Executive Director, who would be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The agency would be established in and operated as a part of the Office of the Governor, which would provide office space, clerical support, and all other necessary personnel. The bill would create the Kansas Advisory Committee on Veterans Affairs which would be charged with assisting the Executive Director in furnishing services to veterans, their relatives and dependents. The Advisory Committee would be identical to the Commission in composition and provisions for appointment and service. Members currently serving on the Commission would continue to serve out their appointed term on the Advisory Committee.

The bill would give the Executive Director authority, with the approval of the Governor, to appoint the superintendents of the Kansas Soldiers Home and Kansas Veterans Home, who would both be in the unclassified service under the Kansas Civil Service Act. Section 10 of the bill strikes current language that specifies all subordinate officers and employees of the agency are within the classified service under the Kansas Civil Service Act, although the bill also provides that the employment status, rights, and benefits of current agency employees would be unaffected. The bill would also update statutory references from the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to the Kansas Executive Director of Veterans Affairs and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, respectively.

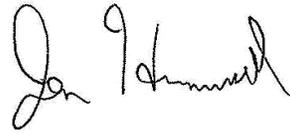
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The Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs indicates that it is unable to estimate costs associated with passage of HB 2681 due to the complexity of the bill and the short amount of time given the agency to respond prior to the bill's hearing. The Office of the Governor reports that while passage of HB 2681 would increase the size and scope of the Governor's Office budget, passage of the bill would have no net effect to the state budget as a whole. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2681 is not reflected in *The FY 2015 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hummell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

Jon Hummell,
Interim Director of the Budget

cc: Kafer Peele, Veterans Affairs