March 10, 2014

The Honorable Marc Rhoades, Chairperson
House Committee on Appropriations
Statehouse, Room 111-N
Topeka, Kansas  66612

Dear Representative Rhoades:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2723 by House Committee on Appropriations

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2723 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2723 would enact the Taxpayer Empowerment, Accountability and Transparency in State Contracting Act. The Division of Purchases within the Department of Administration would be required to establish and maintain an online database that is accessible, searchable, sortable, and downloadable. The database would include the following:

1. A description of the contract for services being purchased;
2. The name of the agency, department, or division contracting for the service;
3. The name of the contractor and any and all subcontractors;
4. Effective and expiration dates of the contract;
5. The annual amount paid to the contractor in the past fiscal years and the current fiscal year under the contract by funding source;
6. The annual amount proposed to be paid to the contractor in the fiscal years beyond the approved budget;
7. The total projected cost of the contract for all fiscal years by funding source; and
8. A list of private contractor employers for each contract, reflected as full-time equivalent positions, their hourly wage rate, and the number of private contractor employers and consultants for the current and previous fiscal years.

The information would be compiled in an annual service contractor expenditure budget accompanying the Governor’s budget, detailing total spending on service contracts for the state. Each service contract in excess of $25,000 between an agency and a person or firm for the performance of a governmental function would provide that the agency is entitled to receive a copy of the necessary records and files and indicate that the records and files are subject to the Kansas Open Records Act. Contracts doing business with an agency would be required to keep and maintain the public records that ordinarily would be kept and maintained by the agency in order to perform a service or activity; provide the agency with access to public records on the same terms and conditions that do not exceed cost as defined in current law; and abide by the provisions of the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

Before any contract is finalized, the contracting agency would prepare a request to the governing body for an appropriation and any authority that is necessary to hire personnel and obtain resources necessary to oversee and monitor performance of service contracts and enforce other conditions required by law. Prior to the awarding of a service contract, the Secretary of Administration would make public a cost comparison. No agency may enter a private service contract, unless the proposed contract is projected to result in overall cost savings to the state or at least 10.0 percent less than the projected cost of having the services provided by public employees. Contract costs would include direct costs, including salaries and benefits, indirect overhead costs, rent and equipment costs, utilities, and materials.

The bill would require the Secretary of Administration or an agency designee, prior to entering into a private contract for public services, to produce a thorough analysis of the possible impacts of the private contract. The analysis would include the possible loss of employment or income in a local area; impacts on social services in the local area; impacts on public assistance programs; economic impact on local businesses; any possible loss or increased tax revenue for the local area; and any environmental impacts that may result from the private contract, including any upgrades or possible degradation. The report would be made available to the public and posted on the Department of Administration’s website.

The Kansas Department of Transportation is unable to estimate if the bill could be implemented within currently approved staffing and operating expenditures. The Department of Administration estimates there would be at least 2,000 contracts in any one fiscal year which would qualify for display on the agency’s website; however, the agency is unable to estimate a fiscal effect since it is unknown exactly how many contracts there would be in any one fiscal year. The Kansas Board of Regents indicates enactment of HB 2723 would require several additional reporting levels and time delays resulting in a decrease in the Board’s ability to outsource services as an available option. The Board cannot estimate the amount of additional administrative funding that would be needed to fully implement the provisions of the bill, as it would increase the amount of time it would take the Board to implement service contracts. The
League of Kansas Municipalities states it cannot estimate a fiscal effect upon Kansas cities if HB 2723 were enacted. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2723 is not reflected in The FY 2015 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Jon Hummell,
Interim Director of the Budget

cc: Pam Fink, DofA
    Ben Cleeves, KDOT
    Kelly Oliver, Regents
    Larry Baer, LKM