February 5, 2015

The Honorable Troy Waymaster, Chairperson
House General Government Budget Committee
Statehouse, Room 165-W
Topeka, Kansas  66612

Dear Representative Waymaster:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2148 by Representative Clayton, et al.

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2148 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Beginning on January 1, 2016, HB 2148 would create a pilot project that would broadcast audio of legislative committee meetings that convene in certain committee rooms, as designated by the Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer (LCITO). The broadcasts would be required to be available in real time for public access. In addition, archives of all broadcasts would be available to the public on the internet.

The LCITO would provide for the operation and maintenance of the audio broadcasts and equipment. Each committee may suspend the broadcasting requirement by a two-thirds vote of the committee’s voting members when there is an equipment failure and the purpose of the vote is not to avoid the requirements of the bill.

Following the 2017 Legislative Session, the LCITO would be required to report to the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) and the Joint Committee on Information Technology on the implementation of the broadcasts, including information regarding the number of individuals listening to the broadcasts, and the feasibility and projected costs of expanding the number of rooms equipped with audio broadcasts. Upon recommendation and approval of the LCC, the LCITO would designate an additional four committee rooms in the State Capitol to be equipped with audio broadcasting equipment for the 2018 Legislative Session and would equip all remaining committee rooms by the 2019 Legislative Session.
According to the Office of Legislative Administrative Services, enactment of HB 2148 would require additional expenditure totaling $77,000 in FY 2016 and $34,000 in FY 2017, all from the State General Fund. This estimate includes one-time costs of $43,000 for hardware, software, and installation of audio equipment in FY 2016, as well $34,000 for operations and maintenance of the equipment for the first year of the program. For FY 2017, the estimate would only include expenditures for the operations and maintenance of the equipment. The agency notes that the above estimates include the capability to stream audio “as-is” in four rooms from the existing audio equipment in the committee rooms and access to archived recordings through a cloud service. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2148 is not reflected in The FY 2016 Governor’s Budget Report.