February 25, 2013

The Honorable Arlen Siegfried, Chairperson
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Statehouse, Room 185-N
Topeka, Kansas  66612

Dear Representative Siegfried:

SUBJECT:  Fiscal Note for HB 2270 by House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2270 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2270 would “prohibit” those authorized to carry a concealed hand gun from carrying that gun into a state or municipal building provided there was adequate security to ensure that no weapons are to be carried into the building. Any state or municipal building that has both public and restricted access entrances would have to provide adequate security at the public entrances.

The bill would “permit” a concealed hand gun in a state or municipal building if there was no security, including permit holders taking a firearm in to their place of employment. Also, it would not be a crime for an authorized carrier of a handgun to take the gun into a secure building as long as the permit holder has the authority to enter through a restricted access entrance. No state or municipal agency may require information related to licensure for concealed carry from an employee or potential employee.

State or municipal buildings, which have adequate security and posts signs prohibiting or allowing guns, authorities would not be liable for any wrongful act of omission relating to actions of persons licensed to carry a concealed handgun. This would also be true for private buildings.

The Kansas League of Municipalities estimates the average walk-through electronic scanner would cost about $2,500 to $5,000. In addition to the purchase price there would also be freight and installation costs. Under HB 2270, if each of the 626 cities in Kansas chose to purchase just one unit, the total cost would be more than $3 million. In addition to one-time costs to purchase and install the units, there would be ongoing annual costs for personnel to staff detectors during operating hours and for upkeep and maintenance of the equipment. While the League is able to estimate an approximate cost to purchase scanning equipment, it is not possible to quantify the total cost of HB 2270 to cities in Kansas. Not all cities would choose to install a
detector. Some may use a less expensive hand held wand detector and some cities may already have their city building equipped with detectors. HB 2270 requires detection equipment at all facilities where a city wants to control concealed carry. Thus, cities may be required to place one or more detectors at libraries, city hall annexes, fire stations, and any other city facility open to the public in addition to city hall. Because HB 2270 applies to employees as well as the general public, cities that desire to continue prohibiting employees from carrying concealed weapons would be required to install detectors at facilities and premises where the public is not permitted or alter access points. Detection equipment, whether walk through or manual wandling, requires one or more operators at each location.

The Attorney General reports that HB 2270 would have a negligible fiscal effect on the agency. The Department of Administration states that it would cost $16,900 to provide adequate security measures at each location. Expenditures would include $7,000 for a metal detector, $400 for two wands, $3,000 for gun lockers, $1,500 for miscellaneous expenditures, and general construction costs to install and re-work public entrances of $5,000. The Department of Administration alone would have nine locations that would require reworking at total cost of $152,100. It is difficult to project the total number of entrances into state buildings that would need to have upgraded security measures, but for those agencies that make upgrades there would be the initial cost of equipment as well as the ongoing cost for personnel and maintenance. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2270 is not reflected in The FY 2014 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Larry Baer, LKM
Pam Fink, DofA
Willie Prescott, Attorney General’s Office