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Laura Kelly, Governor

March 4, 2026

The Honorable Emil Bergquist, Chairperson
House Committee on Local Government
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 281-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Bergquist:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2699 by House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

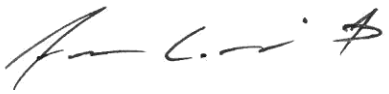
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2699 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Under current law, each county is required to designate a newspaper to be the official county newspaper. HB 2699 would allow the board of county commissioners of any county with a population of 10,000 or more to designate by resolution a website as the official county website. Any designated website would: (1) be maintained by the county and that only content approved for publication by the county would be displayed on the website; (2) be accessible to members of the public and not password protected or behind a paywall; (3) not charge any fees for members of the public to access the legal notices, advertisements, or publications that are posted on the website; and (4) document and display the publication date for each legal notice, advertisement, or publication made on the website. The bill would specify that if a county designates an official county website, the county would no longer be required to designate an official county newspaper.

The Kansas Association of Counties states the bill's enactment would have a fiscal effect on counties associated with operating the website, maintaining publications, and verifying that counties are abiding by the bill's provisions. The Association also notes that any fiscal effect resulting from the bill's enactment would only apply to counties with a population of 10,000 or more and who choose to designate a website as a county's official website. The Association did not estimate a fiscal effect. The Division of the Budget indicates that there could be savings for a county that no longer designates a newspaper as an official county newspaper; however, those

savings could be offset by designating a website as an official county website. The Division cannot estimate a fiscal effect.

Sincerely,



Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Wendi Stark, League of Kansas Municipalities
Bruce Chladny, Kansas Association of Counties