Department of Commerce
1000 S.W. Jackson St., Suite 100
Topeka, KS 66612-1354

Kansas
Department of Commerce

Phone: (785) 296-3481
Fax: (785) 296-5055
KansasCommerce.gov

David C. Toland, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

Proponent Testimony for HB 2793
Rachel Willis, Director of Legislative Affairs, Kansas Department of Commerce
House and Senate Commerce Committees
Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 1:30 p.m.
Room 346 S

The Kansas Department of Commerce supports HB 2793, which establishes the Kansas Sports Facilities Authority. The Kansas Sports Facilities Authority (KSFA) represents the next major step in delivering the once-in-a-generation economic opportunity presented by a new National Football League (NFL) stadium and surrounding entertainment district.

KSFA will serve as a watchdog for Kansas taxpayers — built to protect the public interest and ensure the accountability, transparency, and financial discipline required for a project of this magnitude. The Kansas Sports Facility Authority will manage and oversee the new state-of-the-art domed stadium that the Chiefs will build in Kansas, ensuring it operates efficiently and fulfills its mission of becoming the premier NFL stadium in America while hosting world-class events for the people of Kansas to enjoy.

To fulfill this mission, the Authority will be composed of board members appointed by a bipartisan group of leaders and will include both state and local officials. This structure ensures the Authority reflects statewide priorities and bipartisan leadership. The Board will consist of nine members who are Kansas residents and have relative education, training and experience related to facility administration, accounting, law, marketing or other pertinent fields. Those nine members are:

- A member appointed by the Governor
- A member appointed by the President of the Senate
- A member appointed by the Senate Majority Leader
- A member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader
- A member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
- A member appointed by the House Majority Leader
- A member appointed by the House Minority Leader
- The Secretary of Commerce or Acting Secretary of Commerce
- A member appointed by the Chiefs

Additionally, the mayor of the two cities who pledge their local sales tax increment will be ex officio members.

To ensure transparency and protection for Kansas taxpayers, KSFA includes multiple built-in safeguards. The Authority will operate under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, ensuring public visibility into decision-making. KSFA will also maintain a public website with agendas, minutes, bylaws, and clear channels for public feedback. In addition, the Authority will undergo annual

independent audits to ensure financial transparency and accountability. This structure provides Kansans — from community members to elected leaders — with meaningful opportunities to review, question, and provide input on the Authority's actions.

While the Department of Commerce supports the Kansas Sports Facilities Authority, the agency respectfully requests the following change be made to strengthen this entity.

- The mayors of the cities, who make their local sales tax increment pledge, become voting members of the authority. Since both municipalities will have facilities for the sport team in their community, it is reasonable that they have voting privileges.

The Kansas Sports Facility Authority mirrors the structure and authority of other commissions and public authorities currently established in the state. Its composition is balanced and reflective of its responsibilities. With appropriate checks and balances in place, the authority is designed to serve Kansas taxpayers well.