



Healthy People Build Strong Communities

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Proponent Testimony for HB2397

Submitted To

House Health and Human Services Committee

By

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Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD)

March 5, 2025

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Since State Fiscal Year 2021, the Governor and Legislature have included a proviso in each budget bill to increase the minimum amount of the state assistance allocation (K.S.A. 65-242) for local health departments from \$7,000 to \$12,000. The proviso provides a small increase in the minimum amount of the funding allocation for the smallest local health departments in Kansas. HB2397 proposes to change the statute to the higher \$12,000 amount instead of relying upon proviso language to be included in the budget bill each year.

This minimum allocation has been written into K.S.A. 65-242 since 1982 without adjustment. Today, fifty-one (51) of the one-hundred local health departments serving all Kansas counties are receiving the \$12,000 minimum allocation as provided by the budget proviso. And the proviso language is included in HB2007 for continuation in state fiscal year 2026. At the time this testimony was submitted, no Fiscal Note was available to the public, but I can think of no reason HB2397 would have any fiscal impact given that the minimum allocation proposed is the same as the budget proviso in place for the current fiscal year.

I ask you to pass HB2397 to establish the \$12,000 minimum amount in statute instead of continuing to rely upon annual budget provisos.

Thank you for your work and for your continued support of local health departments.