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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: The Senate Committee on Commerce

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: 2/26/2025

Re: H.B. 2037, as Introduced: Increasing the membership of the council on travel and tourism, updating the house legislative committee assignment required for council members appointed from the house, equalizing the allocation of funds from the matching grant program for the promotion of tourism for private, public and nonprofit entities and removing the restriction on the percentage of such funds granted to a single entity.

Section 1 concerns the council on travel and tourism¹. Legislative members from the House committee on agriculture and natural resources would be replaced by legislative members from the House committee on commerce, labor and economic development. Additionally, the gubernatorial appointees to the council would be increased from 11 to 14. Six of the gubernatorial appointees would represent the general public and eight would represent specific organizations who would send a list of three nominations to the governor. The three additional members would represent the national independent venue association, the Kansas museums association and the Kansas sampler foundation. All gubernatorial appointees would serve three-year terms. Eleven voting members of the council would constitute a quorum.

Section 2 concerns the state matching grant program, which is administered by the secretary of commerce² for the promotion of tourism. The minimum percentage of grant moneys required to

¹ The council on travel and tourism was established by the legislature in 1987 and, under current law, is required to do the following: (a) Advise the Kansas department of commerce in the development and implementation of the state's tourism marketing and business development program including, but not limited to, long-range strategies for attracting visitors to the state; (b) report to the Kansas department of commerce information for preparation of the annual budget for the division of tourism development; (c) identify and review tourism related issues and current state policies and programs which directly or indirectly affect travel and tourism in the state and, as appropriate, recommend the adoption of new, or the modification of existing, policies and programs; and (d) perform such other acts as may be necessary in carrying out the duties of the council. (K.S.A. 32-1411)

² The Kansas tourist attraction evaluation committee, composed of three members appointed by the secretary, screens, evaluates, approves or disapproves all applications for matching grants. (K.S.A. 32-1421)

be allocated to public entities or 501(c)(3) organizations would be decreased from 75% to 50%. Under current law, no more than 20% of moneys granted to public, nonprofit or private entities can be granted to any single such entity. This restriction would be removed.

H.B. 2037 would become effective upon publication in the statute book.