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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Thompson
Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: January 15, 2026

Subject: SB 299 – Release of records of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission.

Senate Bill No. 299 (SB 299) would amend K.S.A. 20-123 regarding the records kept by the Supreme Court Nominating Commission (Commission). The Commission is a nine-member body that nominates individuals for consideration by the Governor for appointment to the Kansas Supreme Court.¹ The bill would make most of the Commission’s records, including the names and cities of residence of individuals nominated to serve on the Commission, public records. Certain information such as criminal history records checks and sensitive financial information of applicants and nominees could be closed from public disclosure by the Commission.

If enacted, SB 299 would become effective on July 1, 2026.

¹ Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1611 passed the Legislature in 2025 and proposes to abolish the Supreme Court Nominating Commission and require the direct election of the justices of the Kansas Supreme Court. The question will be presented to the voters of the state on the August 4, 2026, primary ballot.