

KANSAS OFFICE *of*
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LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS
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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 14, 2025

Subject: Bill Brief on SB 222

Senate Bill 222 prohibits deference to a state agency's interpretation of a statute, rule or regulation or document by a state court or an officer hearing an administrative action.

The bill would enact a new section of law that states in interpreting a state statute, rule and regulation or document that has the force and effect of law, a state court or an officer hearing an administrative action may consider but shall not defer to a state agency's interpretation of such statute, rule and regulation or document and shall interpret the meaning and effect of such statute, rule and regulation or document de novo.

After applying all customary tools of interpretation and rules of statutory construction pursuant to law, a state court or an officer hearing an administrative action shall exercise any remaining doubt in favor of a reasonable interpretation that limits the state agency's powers and maximizes individual liberty.