



March 3, 2025

The Honorable Bob Lewis, Chairperson
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 546-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Lewis:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2327 by House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2327 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2327 would require the Secretary of Corrections to issue a certificate of employability to certain inmates upon their release. To qualify for the certificate, the inmate must have earned a high school diploma, GED, college degree, vocational certification, or postsecondary education credential, have no major disciplinary violations in the year preceding release, and meet the necessary job skills assessment score determined by the Secretary.

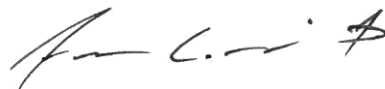
The bill would also specify that the Secretary may revoke the certificate if the inmate is convicted of a felony after release, with provisions for the inmate to appeal the revocation. The bill would make it a Class B nonperson misdemeanor for an inmate to falsely represent themselves as having a valid certificate.

In addition, the certificate of employability may be used as a defense in negligent hiring claims, and it could be admitted as evidence of an employer's due care in hiring an inmate. The Secretary would be required to report the number of certificates issued and the rate of recidivism among certificate recipients annually to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate. The Secretary would have authority to write rules and regulations to implement the bill. The bill would take effect on July 1, 2025.

| Estimated State Fiscal Effect | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 |
| Expenditures | | | |
| State General Fund | -- | \$831,714 | \$544,214 |
| Fee Fund(s) | -- | -- | -- |
| Federal Fund | -- | -- | -- |
| Total Expenditures | -- | \$831,714 | \$544,214 |
| Revenues | | | |
| State General Fund | -- | -- | -- |
| Fee Fund(s) | -- | -- | -- |
| Federal Fund | -- | -- | -- |
| Total Revenues | -- | -- | -- |
| FTE Positions | -- | 3.00 | 3.00 |

The Department of Corrections indicates that enactment of the bill would increase State General Fund expenditures by \$831,714 in FY 2026 and \$544,214 in FY 2027. Of this amount, \$281,714 in FY 2026 and \$243,714 in FY 2027 would be to support the addition and ongoing training of 3.00 FTE regional coordinator positions. This would allow the agency to assign separate employees to the eastern, southern, and western regions in the state to gather inmates' relevant educational records and conduct employability assessments. For FY 2026, the agency's estimate includes \$250,000 of one-time IT development expenditures to incorporate the assessment software into its Athena database system. Based on the operating costs for its existing education certification program, the agency estimates that enactment of the bill would require ongoing expenditures of \$15,000 for licensing fees, \$60,000 for certificate generation and storage (if printed), and \$225,000 for assessment provision. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2327 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Jennifer King, Department of Corrections