

January 22, 2026

The Honorable Susan Estes, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 218-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Estes:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2420 by Representative Steele

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2420 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2420 would prohibit any school-based mental health service for a student, unless the student's parent or guardian provides consent prior to the service. Notification would be required through direct verbal and written communication that outlines the service and the parent or guardian provides consent through a written or electronic signature to authorize the service. If any school district employee becomes aware that a student may be at risk of suicide by a credible report, designated school personnel would be authorized to administer a suicide risk assessment.

If any school district employee violates provisions of the bill, the school district would be liable for a civil penalty of \$5,000 for each violation. The civil penalty would be recoverable by action brought by the Attorney General or a county or district attorney. Any penalties recovered by the Attorney General would be remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit into the State General Fund, while any civil penalties recovered by a county or district attorney would be remitted to the county treasurer and deposited into the general fund of the county.

The Department of Education indicates that the enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on state aid to school districts or a fiscal effect on the agency's administrative expenditures. However, the Department notes that if a violation occurs, a school district would be liable for any civil penalty that would be recovered by either the Attorney General or by a county or district attorney. There would be increased revenue to either the State General Fund or a local general fund of a county, depending on who would assess the penalty. The Department indicates that it cannot estimate a fiscal effect.

The Attorney General reports that the enactment of the bill would increase the agency's workload and would require an additional 1.00 FTE Investigator at a cost of \$86,903, including salaries, benefits, training, travel, and other operating expenses. This new position would review, screen, and investigate complaints as required with the bill. Also, because of a likely heightened public interest, the agency would anticipate receiving a notable volume of complaints. The agency estimates that prosecutions of civil penalties would likely be rare and could be absorbed with existing attorney staffing resources. The agency cannot estimate increased potential revenue from civil penalties. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2420 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicate that the enactment of the bill could have increased costs for school districts from potential civil penalties, as well as costs to county courts from related actions. However, Association cannot estimate a fiscal effect from the enactment of the bill.

The Kansas Association of School Boards indicates the enactment of the bill would allow civil penalties of \$5,000 for each violation that would be paid by school districts, as well as exposure to liability for schools. However, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

Sincerely,



Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Gabrielle Hull, Department of Education
Angie Stallbaumer, Kansas Association of School Boards
Matt Bingesser, Office of the Attorney General
Jay Hall, Kansas Association of Counties