

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Ken Rahjes, Chairperson
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 112-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Rahjes:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2595 by House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2595 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2595 would establish the Rural Legal Training Program for Rural Kansas at the University of Kansas (KU) School of Law and the Washburn University (WU) School of Law. The Program would be developed and implemented to provide encouragement, opportunities, and incentives for individuals pursuing a law degree at KU or WU to practice law in rural Kansas. The Program would be administered by the KU School of Law and the WU School of Law. Both universities could enter into program agreements with law students who have met the bill's requirements and preference would be given to students who are Kansas residents.

Each student entering into a program agreement would receive a stipend not to exceed \$3,000 per school year for not more than three years for tuition, books, supplies, and other school expenses incurred while pursuing a law degree. The bill outlines the requirements for students who enter into a program agreement. Universities could adopt provisions, requirements, or conditions to participate in the Program. The Dean of the KU School of Law and the Dean of the Washburn School of Law would be required to submit a report to the Legislature annually on the Program.

The bill would establish the Attorney Training Program for Kansas Rural Fund, which would be administered by the President of the Board of Regents or the President's designee. All funding credited to the Fund could only be expended for law students who have entered into an agreement. During FY 2027, FY 2028, and FY 2029, the KU School of Law could enter into

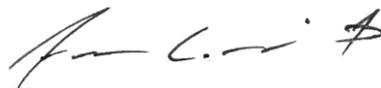
agreements with not more than five first-year law students and the WU School of Law could enter into agreements with not more than ten first-year law students to participate in the Program.

On the following dates, the bill would require the Director of Accounts and Reports to make the following transfers from the State General Fund to the Attorney Training Program for Rural Kansas Fund: (1) FY 2028, \$45,000; (2) FY 2029, \$90,000; (3) FY 2030, \$135,000; (4) FY 2031, \$90,000; and (5) FY 2032, \$45,000.

The Board of Regents indicates enactment of the bill would have a fiscal effect on postsecondary education because of the State General Fund transfers beginning in FY 2028 and ending in FY 2032. The Board also states there could be an increase in administrative duties to manage the contracts and track compliance with the agreements; however, the Board did not estimate a fiscal effect.

KU estimates additional State General Fund expenditures of \$15,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2028, if the bill is enacted to enter into agreements with five first-year law students for a \$3,000 stipend for each of the five students. The Division of the Budget notes that WU would receive \$30,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2028 to enter into agreements with ten first-year law students for a \$3,000 stipend for each of the ten students. The Division also would note that expenditures would be from the Attorney Training Program for Kansas Rural Fund and not from the State General Fund, as the bill would authorize multi-year transfers to the newly created fund. In addition, future appropriations bills would need to have the newly created fund included for expenditures to be authorized in any given fiscal year. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2595 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Becky Pottebaum, Board of Regents
Jeff Dewitt, University of Kansas