

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Emil Bergquist, Chairperson
House Committee on Local Government
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 281-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Bergquist:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2698 by House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2698 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2698 would define terms and allow for permanent seizure of an animal in certain circumstances if the owner of the animal violates any county resolution passed by the board of county commissioners regarding animal care, custody or control. Then, a court of competent jurisdiction could order, in addition to other penalties imposed, that the animal not be returned to or remain with the owner, if the court finds that the animal displays behaviors that present a substantial threat to public health, safety or welfare; would in the future be subjected to treatment or actions by the owner in violation of any resolutions regarding care, custody or control of the animal; or is an animal prohibited to be kept within the county pursuant to a county resolution. If the court finds that an animal should not be returned to or remain with the owner, the animal could be ordered to be disposed of in the manner provided by resolution of the board of county commissioners and ordered by the court.

The Judiciary indicates enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on revenues to the Judiciary or to the State General Fund but could increase expenditures of the Judicial Branch. The bill's provisions require the court to make additional findings and prepare court orders in cases involving animals. While it is difficult to determine how much additional judge and staff time the bill's provisions will require, these new requirements could increase the workload of district court staff. However, an accurate estimate of the fiscal effect on expenditures by the Judicial Branch cannot be determined. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2698 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that the enactment of the bill would increase expenditures to house and feed the seized animal until an alternative living arrangement could be made. However, the precise fiscal amount cannot be estimated. The League of Kansas Municipalities indicates that the enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on cities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Trisha Morrow, Judiciary
Bruce Chladny, Kansas Association of Counties
Wendi Stark, League of Kansas Municipalities