

January 27, 2023

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

Dear Representative Thomas:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for HB 2143 by House Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2143 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2143 would require the board of education of each school district to adopt a bullying policy to prohibit bullying by students, staff members, or parents toward a student, staff member, or parent while on or utilizing school property, in a school vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity. The bill would outline requirements of the policy, including the designation of one person in a school district as the primary contact regarding bullying policy and procedures.

The bill would require all allegations of bullying to be reported to the designated school administrator and any student, parent, or staff member could file a report. The bill would require the school to investigate the alleged incident and take immediate steps to protect any person involved in the alleged incident, pending the completion of the investigation. The bill would outline requirements for the school administrator to take upon receiving a bullying complaint. The bill would also outline procedures to request an independent review, under certain circumstances.

The bill would prohibit any educational or personal data of an alleged perpetrator to be disclosed. The bill would outline disciplinary actions that would be available, including warnings, counseling, suspension, or transfer to another school. The specific consequences would be required to be consistent, reasonable, fair, age-appropriate, and match the severity of the incident. The bill would require school districts to promote progressive discipline and intervention as opposed to “zero tolerance” policies.

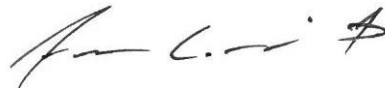
The bill would require the board of education of each school district to implement ongoing professional development to build the skills of all staff members to prevent, identify, and respond

to bullying. The bill would outline the content for these professional development skills. Each school would be required to present, in age-appropriate language, the school district's bullying policy as part of any student orientation at the beginning of an academic term.

To assist school districts, the State Board of Education would be required to develop and maintain a model policy that is applicable to grades kindergarten through 12. In addition, the State Board of Education would be required to develop appropriate procedures for investigating bullying; the reporting and responding to failures in adopting bullying policies and procedures by school districts; the reporting of bullying incidents by school districts; and the publication of statewide bullying statistics.

The Department of Education indicates that the enactment of HB 2143 would require additional administrative and training costs for both the Department and school districts. However, any additional costs would be negligible beyond normal operating costs.

Sincerely,

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

Adam Proffitt  
Director of the Budget

cc: Craig Neuenswander, Department of Education