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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Utilities
From: Tamera Lawrence, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 6, 2012
Subject: HB 2436—Public Utilities and Issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience

HB 2436 concerns the issuance of a certificate of public convenience by the Kansas Corporation Commission. Under current law, any common carrier or public utility that seeks to operate in Kansas is required to first obtain a certificate of public convenience from the KCC. Once an application is made, the KCC then determines if permitting the applicant to transact the business of a common carrier or public utility would serve the public interest of Kansas. If the KCC determines that it would, then a certificate of public convenience is issued.

Currently, there is no requirement for such determination to be made within a specific time frame. HB 2436 requires the KCC to make a decision on an application for a certificate of public convenience within 180 days of receiving such application. The bill also allows for a waiver or extension of the 180-day period upon agreement by the applicant and the KCC.