

January 31, 2012

The Honorable Tim Owens, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 559-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Owens:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 330 by Senate Committee on Judiciary


In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 330 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law regarding professional malpractice screening panels requires the panel to be convened by the district judge or by the chief judge, if the district court has more than one division, upon a request from one of the parties in a malpractice liability action. SB 330 would delete the option of having the chief judge in a district with more than one division convene the panel and would also remove this option from a number of other provisions in current law related to professional malpractice screening panels, including those concerned with:

1. Convening a professional malpractice screening panel when a claim has not been formalized by the filing of a petition;
2. Selecting an attorney to be a member of the panel;
3. Notifying the parties of an action that a screening panel has been convened;
4. Selecting a professional licensee; and
5. Reporting the determination of the panel to the chief judge.

According to the Office of Judicial Administration, passage of SB 330 would have no fiscal effect on the Judicial Branch.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Mary Rinehart, Judiciary
Melissa Wangemann, Kansas Association of Counties