

February 28, 2014

The Honorable Lance Kinzer, Chairperson
House Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 165-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Kinzer:

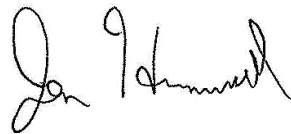
SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2604 by House Committee on Judiciary

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2604 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2604 would amend the Revised Kansas Family Law Code with regard to the dissolution of marriage. Among the provisions of the bill would include eliminating "incompatibility" as grounds to grant a decree of divorce, and the court's option to grant an annulment unless the marriage contract was induced by fraud is also eliminated.

The Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) indicates that HB 2604 includes a provisions which would allow a divorce if both spouses agree. Since the current grounds of "incompatibility" does not require both spouse to agree, OJA indicates HB 2604 would increase expenditures of the Judicial Branch in hearing divorce cases from the additional time needed to prove the grounds for divorce. OJA indicates the requirement for a hearing in all garnishment matters would increase judicial and nonjudicial personnel time spent docketing, hearing and processing these matters. However, until the courts have had an opportunity to operate with the provisions of HB 2604 in place, a precise fiscal effect of the expenditures by the Judicial Branch cannot be determined.

Sincerely,



Jon Hummell,
Interim Director of the Budget

cc: Mary Rinehart, Judiciary