

February 16, 2016

The Honorable Janice Pauls, Chairperson
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Statehouse, Room 285-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Pauls:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2612 by House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2612 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2612 would codify certain federal requirements related to state agencies involved in the resettling of refugees. This bill would:

1. Create a state office for refugees within the Department for Children and Families (DCF);
2. Require the Governor to appoint a State Refugee Coordinator;
3. Require the State Refugee Coordinator to meet with local governments to plan and coordinate placements of refugees;
4. Require the gathering and reporting of statistical and program activity information to members of state and local government and law enforcement;
5. Allow local governments to submit applications for a moratorium on new refugee resettlement activities in a community which lacks sufficient absorptive capacity;
6. Require the applications for moratorium to be reviewed during a public meeting;
7. Allow the Governor to suspend resettlement activity, if it is determined the local community lacks sufficient capacity, for up to one year or until such time as the capacity has been restored; and
8. Allow the Governor to direct the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) to investigate any crime committed by or against a refugee.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2016 SGF	FY 2016 All Funds	FY 2017 SGF	FY 2017 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$714,120	\$714,120
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	3.00

The Department for Children and Families states that HB 2612 would require increased communication with state and local agencies and increased collection and dissemination of statistical information. To meet these requirements, DCF estimates that an additional 3.00 FTE positions would be needed. The salary costs associated with these additional positions and the corresponding operating expenditures total \$180,787 in FY 2017.

To meet the statistical data collection and reporting requirements, a statewide database would have to be developed and maintained. The cost of such a system is estimated at \$800,000 over an 18 month period. DCF assumes the funding would be from the State General Fund because refugee funding is often delayed and it is possible that the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement will not approve the expenditures.

The KBI states that although there would be no immediate fiscal effect, depending on the volume of crimes committed against or by refugees the KBI could have additional costs in the future.

The Kansas Association of Counties states that there could be additional costs associated with the time and use of personnel to meet the bill requirements for local governments to mutually consult and plan for the placement of refugees. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2612 is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Jackie Aubert, Children & Families
Dale Dennis, Education
Aaron Dunkel, Health & Environment
Shelia Sawyer-Tyler, KBI
Melissa Wangemann, Association of Counties
Larry Baer, League of Municipalities