

March 4, 2016

CORRECTED

The Honorable Steve Abrams, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 224-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Abrams:

SUBJECT: Corrected Fiscal Note for SB 444 by Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following corrected fiscal note concerning SB 444 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 444 would establish a language assessment program for children who are deaf and hard of hearing to be administered by the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH). On and after July 1, 2018, an annual language assessment would be given to each child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who is less than nine years of age. The assessment would be provided either through early intervention services administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, or if the child is three years of age or older, through the school district in which the child is enrolled.

The bill would establish within KCDHH a 13-member advisory committee. Seven members of the advisory committee would be ex officio members. On or before January 31, 2018, the advisory committee would be required to develop specific action plans and proposed rules and regulations necessary to fully implement the language assessment program.

On or before January 31, 2019, and each January 31 thereafter, the KCDHH would be required to publish a report that is specific to language and literacy development of children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth to the age of eight, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing and have other disabilities, relative to such children's peers who are not deaf or hard of hearing. The report would be based on existing data reported in compliance with the federally required state performance plan on pupils with disabilities. KCDHH would be required to publish the report on its website.

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Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2016 SGF	FY 2016 All Funds	FY 2017 SGF	FY 2017 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$42,314	\$42,314
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	0.50

In the original fiscal note issued by the Division of the Budget, a fiscal note response was requested from the Department of Education, as well as the Kansas School for the Deaf. Upon further review, a fiscal note response should have been requested from the Department for Children and Families, as the KCDHH is under its authority.

The Department for Children and Families indicates that enactment of SB 444 would require additional expenditures totaling \$42,314 from the State General Fund, including 0.50 FTE Public Service Administrator I. Of this estimate, \$24,974 would be for salaries and wages and \$17,340 for other operating expenditures, including travel and expenses for interpreters for deaf advisory committee members. The Department indicates the half-time position would administer the program, develop the assessments, complete data collection, and coordinate with the various organizations to administer and complete the assessments. Annual ongoing costs would be approximately \$42,000 each year from the State General for the position and associated expenses. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 444 is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education