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MEMORANDUM

To:	House Committee on K-12 Education Budget
From:	Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date:	March 8, 2018
Subject:	House Bill 2697

House Bill 2697 would amend the transportation funding formula in K.S.A. 72-5148 by increasing the assumed cost for transporting students who live 2.5 or more miles from the school building. Currently, the assumed cost factor is set at 2.8 in the formula. HB 2697 would increase this assumed cost factor to five.

Overview of the Current Transportation Weighting Formula in K.S.A. 72-5148

The transportation weighing formula provides the amount of state transportation funding that each school district receives. The transportation formula utilizes a district's total transportation expenditures and the number of students for whom transportation was made available to determine a district's per-student cost of transporting students who live 2.5 miles or more from their school building. The formula provides an assumed cost factor of 2.8 for the students who live 2.5 miles or more from their school building meaning the formula assumes that such students cost 2.8 times more to transport than students that live within 2.5 miles. Each district's per-student transportation cost is then plotted on a graph based upon the district's index of density.

A curve of best fit is then constructed for the plotted data points. The curve of best fit provides an estimated per-student transportation cost for each district and is used to determine a district's transportation funding amount.

Current law also provides a hold harmless provision for school districts through school year 2020-2021. Under such hold harmless provision, if a school district's transportation funding in school year 2016-2017 under the CLASS act was greater than the amount provided by the current transportation formula, the school district will receive the amount of transportation funding it received under the CLASS act.

Current Transportation Weighting Formula's Mathematical Steps

Step One: Determine per-student transportation cost

District's per-student transportation cost for S ≥ 2.5 miles miles	=	District's Total Transportation Expenditures -- $((S < 2.5 \text{ miles} + NR) \div (S \geq 2.5 \text{ miles} \times 2.8) + 1) \times S \geq 2.5$

S ≥ 2.5 miles   Students who resided 2.5 miles or more from the school building in the preceding school year for whom transportation was made available by the school district.

S < 2.5 miles   Students who resided less than 2.5 miles from the school building in the preceding school year and for whom transportation was made available by the school district.

NR   Number of non-resident students who were included in the enrollment of the school district in the preceding school year and for whom transportation was made available by the school district.

Step Two: Construct density-cost graph and curve of best fit

       Plot each district's per-student transportation cost according to the density of the district and construct a curve of best fit. Density is determined by dividing the number of students that are residing 2.5 miles or more from school and for whom transportation was made available by the number of square miles of the district.

Step Three: Determine transportation funding amount

       Locate the district's estimated per-student transportation cost determined by the curve of best fit and divide by the BASE aid amount. Multiply this quotient by the number of students that are residing 2.5 miles or more from the school building and for whom transportation was made available by, and at the expense of, the school district. This provides the transportation weighting of the school district which is then multiplied by the BASE to determine total transportation funding unless the hold harmless provision applies.