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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. Sections 1 through 8, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the Longitudinal data act.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

- (a) "Act" means the Longitudinal data act.
- (b) "De-identified" or "de-identify" means the process used to remove all direct personal identifiers from individual level data.
- (c) "Data" means any information about a person stored in a physical or electronic record.
- (d) "Director" means the director of the division of longitudinal data.
- (e) "Division" means the division of longitudinal data established pursuant to section 2 and amendments thereto under the Kansas legislative research department.
- (f) "Memorandum of understanding" means an agreement that sets forth the details of how data is shared within the Kansas longitudinal data system and the respective legal rights and responsibilities of each party within the data sharing process and may be used for outside entities to sign on to the data sharing process without having to re-sign as additional outside entities sign on to such agreement.
- (g) "Outside entity" means any public or private entity that is not a participating agency that enters a memorandum of understanding to participate in the Kansas longitudinal data system.
- (h) "Participating agency" means the:
 - (1) State department of education;
 - (2) state board of regents;
 - (3) department of labor;
 - (4) department of revenue;

(5) department of health and environment;

(6) department of commerce; and

(7) any other outside entity that has executed a memorandum of understanding for participation in the Kansas longitudinal data system pursuant to the terms and conditions of the memorandum of understanding.

(i) "Education data" means data relating to student performance from early childhood learning programs through postsecondary education, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) State and national assessments;
- (2) course taking and completion;
- (3) grade point average;
- (4) remediation;
- (5) retention;
- (6) special population status as defined by the division;
- (7) degree, diploma or credential attainment;
- (8) enrollment and absenteeism data;
- (9) demographic data;
- (10) suspension and expulsion records;
- (11) student financial aid data;
- (12) college and career readiness;
- (13) high school equivalency diploma;
- (14) transcripts; and
- (15) any other data impacting education deemed necessary by the Legislative coordinating council.

(j) "In-demand industry sector or occupation" means the same as defined in 29 USC § 3102(23)(A).

(k) "Kansas longitudinal data system" or "system" means a statewide data system that

contains education, workforce, health and other data identified by the Legislative coordinating council.

(l) "Research designee" means an individual, organization or entity designated by the division of longitudinal data and approved by the Legislative coordinating council to assist in conducting research and analysis using data from the Kansas longitudinal data system. A research designee shall possess demonstrated expertise in data analysis, education, workforce or related fields and shall adhere to all privacy, security and confidentiality requirements outlined in this act and applicable state and federal laws.

(m) "Workforce data" means data relating to workforce and employment, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Employment status;
- (2) wage information;
- (3) geographic location of employment;
- (4) industry or occupation;
- (5) certification and licensure;
- (6) job service and training information to support enhanced employment opportunities;

and

- (7) any other data impacting the workforce deemed necessary by the Division.

Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby created the division of longitudinal data under the legislative research department whose head shall be the division director and who shall be appointed by the legislative coordinating council to serve under its direction. The division director may be removed from division by a vote of five members of the legislative coordinating council taken at any regular meeting of such council. The division director shall receive such compensation as is determined by the legislative coordinating council. The division director, and any of the director's assistants specified by the legislative coordinating council, shall receive expenses and

allowances for in-state and out-of-state travel as is provided by law for members of the legislature. The division director shall appoint such assistants and employees of the division of longitudinal data as are authorized by the legislative coordinating council and shall set their compensation subject to the approval of such council. The division director and all assistants and employees of the division of longitudinal data shall be in the unclassified service. The division director shall be an authorized representative for partner entity data.

(b) The division shall perform the following duties:

(1) Develop a strategic plan to develop, implement and utilize the system to accomplish

the objectives and ensure compliance with the configurations set forth in paragraph (3);

(2) Collect data from participating agencies and outside entities;

(3) connect and ensure collected data is de-identified by the division;

(4) store connected data;

(5) conduct research on data using the system related to the research agenda adopted by

the Legislative coordinating council;

(6) conduct research on data using the system to answer research requests;

(7) oversee compliance regarding the protection of data shared with the system;

(8) develop a data governance and security plan for the system regarding the use,

privacy and security of data and publish the plan on a system website developed and administered, or caused to be developed and administered, by the division;

(9) establish policies for sharing aggregated data or reports with the public and external entities;

(10) develop strategies for promotion the transparent operation of the system; and

(11) prepare and provide an annual report to the Legislative coordinating council and office of the governor.

(c) The division director, with consultation by the Legislative coordinating council, shall create a prioritized list of data research requests.

(d) In developing the list described in subsection (c), the division shall accept data research

requests from:

- (1) A legislative committee or a legislative staff office;
 - (2) the governor or an executive branch agency;
 - (3) the state board of education; and
 - (4) the state board of regents.
- (e) The division shall begin accepting data research requests described in subsection (c) on January 31, 2026, or as soon as practicable prior to this date if the division determines it has the capacity to process such requests.
- (f) The division shall report the list described in subsection (c) to the Legislative coordinating council before December 1 of each year.

(g) In addition to conducting data research in accordance with the prioritized list described in subsection (c), the division may use additional resources to prepare data research at the request of:

- (1) A state government entity;
 - (2) a political subdivision of the state;
 - (3) a private entity; or
 - (4) a member of the public.
- (h) The director, with approval by the legislative coordinating council, shall determine, for a data research request described in subsection (c):
- (1) Whether the division has the resources to complete the data research request;
 - (2) the order in which the division shall complete the data research request, if at all; and
 - (3) a reasonable estimated cost for the request.

(j) The division, after evaluating the request under subsection (h), shall:

- (1) Provide the person or entity that requested the data research with a cost estimate;
- and
- (2) require, before accepting a data research request, that the person or entity that submitted the data research request pay, once the data research is complete, the full cost of

completing the data research request as determined by the division under subsection (h).

(k) In the event of a data breach, the division shall comply with any applicable law, including, but not limited to, K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 75-7244, and amendments thereto, and other provisions pertaining to notifications of data breaches.

Sec. 3. (a) The Division of longitudinal data shall establish the Kansas longitudinal data system as a secure means to:

(1) Exchange, de-identify and match individual level education and workforce data from partner agencies and outside entities while upholding legal protections to ensure privacy and security;

(2) connect individuals and organizations to trusted information, resources, tools and services that support the education-to-employment pipeline; and

(3) provide the legislature and state agencies with access to data regarding state workforce development, including early learning, education, workforce training and employment outcomes. The system shall make it possible to match data from various agencies and programs over time to create reports that may then be aggregated and analyzed to assist the legislature and state agencies with developing strategies to improve education and workforce outcomes.

(b) Each partner agency shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the division to participate in the system. All information matched from partner agencies shall be collected, safeguarded, kept confidential and used only by the division of longitudinal data in accordance with this act and state and federal law. Each partner agency shall retain ownership of any data the partner agency provides to the system and shall reserve the right to opt out of any research request if the request would violate state or federal law. A partner agency shall not have access to data owned by another partner agency unless a data request is approved by a majority of the legislative coordinating council. A partner agency may engage in direct data sharing agreements with another partner agency or an external entity when and in the manner approved

by the Legislative coordinating council if the data to be shared is owned by the contracting parties.

(c) The division of longitudinal data shall conduct research using the system related to the research agenda adopted by the Legislative coordinating council.

(d) The division may contract with any person or entity to carry out the purposes of this act subject to approval by the Legislative coordinating council.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, state agencies are hereby authorized to enter into memorandums of understanding with the division to share data as provided by this act.

Sec. 4. Direct access to data in the system shall be restricted to authorized staff of the division of longitudinal data, the division's research designee or other persons with a need to access such data to further the objectives of this act if such access is approved by the Legislative coordinating council. The division may limit access to data to certain categories or types of data or on such other basis as directed by the Legislative coordinating council.

Sec. 7. (a) The division of longitudinal data may designate a research designee to assist in conducting data research and fulfilling the objectives outlined in this act. The research designee shall be an individual or entity with demonstrated expertise in data analysis, education, workforce or related fields.

(b) The process for designating a research designee shall be as follows:

(1) The division shall submit a written request to the Legislative coordinating council identifying the proposed research designee, including:

(A) The qualifications and expertise of the designee;

(B) the scope of work the designee will perform; and

(C) a statement explaining how the designee's work aligns with the goals of the Kansas longitudinal data system;

(2) the Legislative coordinating council shall review the request and may request

additional information or documentation from the division or the proposed designee; and

(3) the Legislative coordinating council shall approve or deny the request within 60 days of submission of the written request. Approval shall require a majority vote of the Legislative coordinating council members.

(c) Upon approval by the Legislative coordinating council, the research designee shall be:

(1) Authorized to access data and perform research as specified in the approved scope of work; and

(2) be subject to all privacy, security and confidentiality requirements outlined in this act and applicable state and federal laws.

(d) The designation of a research designee shall be valid for a term not exceeding three years, after which the division may submit a request for renewal to the Legislative coordinating council following the same process described in subsection (b).

(e) The Legislative coordinating council may revoke the designation of a research designee at any time for cause, including but not limited to failure to comply with privacy and security requirements or a breach of contract.

(f) The division shall publish the names and roles of all approved research designees on the divisions' publicly accessible website to ensure transparency.

Sec. 5. (a) The division of longitudinal data shall establish, or cause to be established, the Kansas credential and skills registry. The Kansas credential and skills registry shall be a comprehensive and consistently up-to-date collection of information on all educational and occupational credentials that are delivered, issued, funded or governed by the state. Educational and occupational credentials, include, but are not limited to, diplomas, certificates, certifications, digital badges, apprenticeships, licenses and degrees of all types and levels. Information to be included in the Registry shall include, at a minimum:

(1) The name of the credential;

- (2) the type of credential;
- (3) the owner of the credential;
- (4) the provider of the credential;
- (5) the status of the credential;
- (6) a short description of the credential;
- (7) the estimated duration for completion;
- (8) the process and outcome quality indicators of the provider and the credential;
- (9) the competencies and skills included in the credential;
- (10) the costs of completion;
- (11) any assessments and their costs associated with earning the credential;
- (12) transfer value recommendations, as available;
- (13) descriptions of known pathways of which the credential is a part;
- (14) outcomes associated with the credential, including but not limited to earnings and employment, completion and pass rates, and calculations of return-on-investment, as available;
- (15) the industry and occupation related to the credential which may include its code under the north American industry classification system; and
- (16) other such information as determined by the Legislative coordinating council.

(b) On or before June 30, 2026, and each June 30 thereafter, the division shall develop a list of credentials that are aligned to the in-demand occupations for each industry operating in the state, and shall clearly indicate such listing among the overall collection of credentials in the registry.

(c) The registry shall be available to the public as linked, open and interoperable data, readable by a person and machine actionable, aligned with widely recognized standards and allow for open access across sector platforms, such as through credential transparency description language families of schema.

(d) The registry shall not include any personally identifiable information about the holders of such credentials. The division shall seek to align registry data with student level information in the Kansas longitudinal data system.

(e) The division shall ensure that data in the registry are used in tools and services for students, learners, workers, employers, educators, policymakers and the general public, such as for:

- (1) Education and training search, guidance, navigation and counseling;
- (2) depiction and navigation of pathways;
- (3) awareness and management of dual credit or dual enrollment and transfers; and
- (4) comprehensive learner records or learning and employment records.

Sec. 6. Sections one through 9, and amendments thereto, shall expire on January 1, 2033.

Sec. 7.

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT DIVISION OF LONGITUDINAL DATA

(a) There is hereby appropriated for the above agency from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

Operating expenditures.....\$3,000,000

Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Kansas Register.