

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 420**

As Agreed to April 26, 2024

**Brief\***

House Sub. for SB 420 would establish criteria to permit juvenile offenders in the custody of the Secretary of Corrections (Secretary) to leave the juvenile facility for certain programming.

Current law authorizes the Secretary to issue leave to a juvenile placed in a correctional facility when necessary for the juvenile to obtain medical services or to reintegrate into the community when accompanied by a staff member or other designated adult.

The bill would authorize the Secretary to establish work release and educational release programs for juveniles, and would specify a juvenile may attend such release programs outside the facility without a staff member or designated adult when:

- The juvenile meets appropriate classification as defined by the Department of Corrections' (KDOC) policies and procedures;
- The Secretary finds the juvenile meets the criteria for a release program; and
- The juvenile can receive substantial benefit from educational or vocational programs that are not offered at the facility.

The bill would require the Secretary to adopt policies and procedures to ensure adequate oversight, supervision, and accountability of a juvenile attending a release program, including communication with community providers related to the juvenile.

**Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to the provisions of House Sub. for SB 420 as passed by the House, and further agreed to amend the bill to:

- Remove provisions concerning juvenile case length limits; and
- Add parameters to the Secretary's ability to release juveniles from facilities for certain programming.

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kIRD>

## Background

The House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice recommended a substitute bill incorporating the provisions of HB 2490, as passed by the House, regarding juvenile case length limits, and the provisions of HB 2698, as passed by the House, regarding juvenile facility leave. [Note: The Conference Committee did not retain the provisions of HB 2490 in the Conference Committee Report.]

SB 420, as passed by the Senate, contained provisions regarding the crime of breach of privacy. [Note: These provisions were inserted into SB 414 by the House Committee.]

### **HB 2698**

HB 2698 was introduced by the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice at the request of a representative of KDOC.

#### *House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice*

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was presented by the KDOC Deputy Secretary of Juvenile and Adult Community-Based Services. The proponent generally stated the bill would allow KDOC to take another step towards providing employment skills and experience to residents of the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex, as a majority of the residents will leave the facility eligible for entry into the workforce.

Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by the President and Chief Executive Officer of Jobs for America's Graduates – Kansas and a representative of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC).

No other testimony was provided.

#### *Senate Committee on Judiciary*

In the Senate Committee hearing, the same representative of KDOC testified as a **proponent** of the bill, providing substantially similar testimony as in the House Committee hearing. Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by a representative of JJOC.

No other testimony was provided.

## Fiscal Information

### **HB 2698**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2698, as introduced, KDOC indicates the bill would likely require some reallocation of staff, but the cost to perform the required duties could be absorbed within existing resources and staff levels. Any fiscal impact is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Juvenile justice; Kansas Department of Corrections

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