

SESSION OF 2024

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2628**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Child Welfare and Foster Care

**Brief\***

HB 2628 would modify the law governing access to confidential information regarding children alleged or adjudicated to be in need of care.

The bill would require the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary) to release certain information to the public in response to an open records request pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) within seven business days of receipt of the request, if criminal charges are filed with a court alleging that a person caused a child fatality.

[*Note:* Continuing law requires release of the same information in response to a KORA request within seven business days when child abuse or neglect results in a child fatality. The required information includes age and sex of the child, date of fatality, a summary of previous reports and findings of abuse or neglect involving the child, and services provided to the child as recommended by the Department for Children and Families (DCF).]

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care at the request of a representative of DCF.

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

### ***House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care***

In the House Committee hearing, the Secretary testified as a **proponent** of the bill, stating the bill would allow DCF to release publicly-relevant information in child fatality cases sooner, as the current statute requires DCF to complete its investigation and make a finding of abuse or neglect before any information may be released.

No other testimony was provided.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the DCF, Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Association of Counties, Office of Judicial Administration, and State Board of Healing Arts indicate enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Release of information; Department for Children and Families; abuse or neglect; child fatality