

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2019

HOUSE BILL No. 2403

By Committee on Taxation

3-20

1 AN ACT establishing the joint committee on child welfare system
2 oversight; concerning the safety and well-being of children in the child
3 welfare system in the state of Kansas; requiring an annual report to the
4 legislature.

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the joint committee on child
8 welfare system oversight. The joint committee shall review:

9 (1) ~~The level of oversight and supervision by the Kansas department~~
10 ~~for children and families over each entity that contracts with the Kansas~~
11 ~~department for children and families to provide reintegration, foster care~~
12 ~~and adoption services;~~

13 ~~(2) the duties, responsibilities and contributions of state agencies,~~
14 ~~nongovernmental entities and service providers that provide child welfare~~
15 ~~services in the state of Kansas;~~

16 ~~(3) the level of access to child welfare services, including, but not~~
17 ~~limited to, health and mental health services and community-based~~
18 ~~services, in the state of Kansas;~~

19 ~~(4) the number of children in the child welfare system and the factors~~
20 ~~that contribute to such number;~~

21 ~~(5) the licensing standards for case managers working in the child~~
22 ~~welfare system~~**Data on child maltreatment and demographic trends**
23 **impacting the child welfare system;**

24 **(2) the duties, responsibilities and contributions of the Kansas**
25 **department for children and families, the Kansas department for**
26 **aging and disability services, the department of health and**
27 **environment, the department of corrections, law enforcement and the**
28 **judicial branch that comprise and impact the child welfare system;**

29 **(3) the programs, services and benefits offered directly or**
30 **through grants or contracts by the Kansas department for children**
31 **and families, the Kansas department for aging and disability services,**
32 **the department of health and environment, the department of**
33 **corrections, law enforcement and the judicial branch that impact**
34 **children and families at risk of becoming involved or who are involved**
35 **in the child welfare system, including:**

36 **(A) Child maltreatment prevention;**

1 **(B) investigations of child maltreatment;**

2 **(C) in-home family services, including services offered through**
3 **federal prevention and family preservation funding; and**

4 **(D) foster care, reintegration and adoption services;**

5 **(4) trends, performance outcomes, activities and improvement**
6 **plans related to the federal child and family services reviews;**

7 **(5) reports from child welfare-related groups, including, but not**
8 **limited to, citizen review panels, the Kansas supreme court**
9 **permanency planning task force, the Kansas children's cabinet and**
10 **any interim study committees or work groups authorized by the**
11 **Kansas legislature;**

12 **(6) implementation of the 2019 child welfare system task force**
13 **report recommendations, including top-tier recommendations related**
14 **to the child welfare workforce, data technology, access to behavioral**
15 **healthcare for high-risk youth and implementation of the federal**
16 **family first prevention services act;**

17 **(7) reports on concerns received from the Kansas department for**
18 **children and families child welfare ombudsman or customer service**
19 **department or similar office;**

20 **(8) opportunities for Kansas to strengthen the child welfare**
21 **system through evidence-based interventions and services for children**
22 **and families; and**

23 ~~(6)~~**(9) any other topic the joint committee deems necessary or**
24 **appropriate.**

25 (b) The joint committee shall consist of 11 members of the legislature
26 appointed as follows:

27 (1) Two members of the house of representatives standing committee
28 on children and seniors appointed by the speaker of the house of
29 representatives;

30 (2) one member of the house of representatives standing committee
31 on children and seniors appointed by the minority leader of the house of
32 representatives;

33 (3) two members of the senate standing committee on public health
34 and welfare appointed by the president of the senate;

35 (4) one member of the senate standing committee on public health
36 and welfare appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

37 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
38 speaker of the house of representatives;

39 (6) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
40 minority leader of the house of representatives; and

41 (7) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the
42 senate.

43 (c) Members shall be appointed for terms coinciding with the

1 legislative terms for which such members are elected or appointed. All
2 members appointed to fill vacancies in the membership of the joint
3 committee and all members appointed to succeed members appointed to
4 membership on the joint committee shall be appointed in the manner
5 provided for the original appointment of the member succeeded.

6 (d) (1) The first chairperson of the joint committee shall be appointed
7 by the speaker of the house of representatives from among the members of
8 the joint committee appointed by the speaker of the house of
9 representatives. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the joint
10 committee shall alternate annually between the members appointed by the
11 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate.

12 (2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall designate a
13 representative member to be the chairperson or the vice-chairperson of the
14 joint committee as provided in this section. The president of the Senate
15 shall designate a senator member to be the chairperson or the vice-
16 chairperson of the joint committee as provided in this section. The ranking
17 minority member shall be from the same chamber as the chairperson. The
18 minority leader of the senate shall designate a senator member to be the
19 ranking minority member of the joint committee as provided in this
20 section. The minority leader of the house of representatives shall designate
21 a representative member to be the ranking minority member of the joint
22 committee as provided in this section.

23 (e) The members originally appointed as members of the joint
24 committee shall meet upon the call of the chairperson on or ~~before August~~
25 **after January 1, 2019 2020**. Thereafter, the joint committee shall meet at
26 least once in January and once in April when the legislature is in regular
27 session and at least once ~~for two consecutive days~~ during each of the third
28 and fourth calendar quarters, on the call of the chairperson, but not to
29 exceed six meetings in a calendar year, ~~except that additional meetings~~
30 ~~may be held on call of the chairperson when urgent circumstances exist~~
31 ~~that require such meetings.~~

32 (f) Six members of the joint committee shall constitute a quorum.

33 (g) At the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, the
34 joint committee shall submit to the president of the senate, the speaker of
35 the house of representatives, the house standing committee on children and
36 seniors and the senate standing committee on public health and welfare a
37 written report that shall include recommended changes to current laws,
38 rules and regulations and policies regarding the safety and well-being of
39 children in the child welfare system in the state of Kansas.

40 (h) Members of the joint committee shall be paid compensation,
41 amounts for travel expenses and subsistence expenses or allowances as
42 provided in K.S.A. 75-3212, and amendments thereto, for attendance at
43 any meeting of the joint committee or any subcommittee meeting

1 authorized by the committee.

2 (i) In accordance with K.S.A. 46-1204, and amendments thereto, the
3 legislative coordinating council may provide for such professional services
4 as may be requested by the joint committee.

5 (j) The joint committee may make recommendations and introduce
6 legislation as it deems necessary in performing its functions.

7 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
8 publication in the statute book.