

SENATE BILL No. 120

By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

2-1

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; and

23 (6) 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;

1 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
2 speaker of the house of representatives;

3 (6) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
4 minority leader of the house of representatives; and

5 (7) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the
6 senate.

7 (c) Members shall be appointed for terms coinciding with the
8 legislative terms for which such members are elected or appointed. All
9 members appointed to fill vacancies in the membership of the joint
10 committee and all members appointed to succeed members appointed to
11 membership on the joint committee shall be appointed in the manner
12 provided for the original appointment of the member succeeded.

13 (d) (1) The first chairperson of the joint committee shall be appointed
14 by the speaker of the house of representatives from among the members of
15 the joint committee appointed by the speaker of the house of
16 representatives. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the joint
17 committee shall alternate annually between the members appointed by the
18 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate.

19 (2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall designate a
20 representative member to be the chairperson or the vice-chairperson of the
21 joint committee as provided in this section. The president of the Senate
22 shall designate a senator member to be the chairperson or the vice-
23 chairperson of the joint committee as provided in this section. The ranking
24 minority member shall be from the same chamber as the chairperson. The
25 minority leader of the senate shall designate a senator member to be the
26 ranking minority member of the joint committee as provided in this
27 section. The minority leader of the house of representatives shall designate
28 a representative member to be the ranking minority member of the joint
29 committee as provided in this section.

30 (e) The members originally appointed as members of the joint
31 committee shall meet upon the call of the chairperson on or before August
32 1, 2021. Thereafter, the joint committee shall meet at least once in January
33 and once in April when the legislature is in regular session and at least
34 once for two consecutive days during each of the third and fourth calendar
35 quarters, on the call of the chairperson, but not to exceed six meetings in a
36 calendar year, except that additional meetings may be held on call of the
37 chairperson when urgent circumstances exist that require such meetings.

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

39 (g) At the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, the
40 joint committee shall submit to the president of the senate, the speaker of
41 the house of representatives, the house standing committee on children and
42 seniors and the senate standing committee on public health and welfare a
43 written report that shall include recommended changes to current laws,

1 rules and regulations and policies regarding the safety and well-being of
2 children in the child welfare system in the state of Kansas.

3 (h) Members of the joint committee shall be paid compensation,
4 amounts for travel expenses and subsistence expenses or allowances as
5 provided in K.S.A. 75-3212, and amendments thereto, for attendance at
6 any meeting of the joint committee or any subcommittee meeting
7 authorized by the committee.

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

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

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