

SESSION OF 2022

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2215**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Corrections and Juvenile Justice

**Brief\***

HB 2215 would allow people with felony drug convictions to receive benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

The bill would remove the prohibition on persons convicted of a felony drug offense from being able to receive SNAP benefits and exceptions to the prohibition under certain circumstances. The bill would state that no person should be denied food assistance solely because of a drug-related felony. The bill would direct the Secretary for Children and Families to submit to the federal government any approval request required to implement the bill's provisions.

**Background**

The bill was introduced in the 2021 House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice at the request of Representative Jennings on behalf of the Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission.

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

In the House Committee hearing on January 26, 2022, representatives of the Association of Kansas Food Banks, the Council for State Governments Justice Center, Harvesters, Kansas Action for Children, Kansas Appleseed Center for

---

\*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>

Law and Justice, and Kansas Interfaith Action; and four private citizens testified as **proponents** of the bill.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Allen County Multi-Team Agency Coalition; Black Lives Matter – Topeka, KS; Destination Innovation, Inc.; Humanity House; Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence; Kansas Food and Farm Coalition; Kansas Health Foundation; and Topeka Independent Resource Center, and by a private citizen.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

**Opponent** testimony was provided by a representative of Opportunity Solutions Project.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, the Department for Children and Families states enactment of the bill would increase the food assistance caseload by an average of 50 cases per month; the current average caseload is approximately 95,000 cases. Food assistance paid to individuals is completely funded by federal moneys and the benefits are passed through DCF to the beneficiaries; therefore, the benefits paid would have no fiscal effect on the agency. The increase in caseload would be minimal and absorbed with current resources.

Supplemental nutrition assistance program; felony drug conviction