

SESSION OF 2021

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2371

As Amended by House Committee on Children
and Seniors

Brief*

HB 2371, as amended, would amend a statute governing eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), food assistance, and child care subsidies.

The bill would remove provisions disqualifying individuals from receiving a child care subsidy or participating in the food assistance program due to non-cooperation with child support services.

In a provision requiring the Secretary for Children and Families to adopt rules and regulations used in determining and maintaining eligibility for non-TANF child care, requiring that all included adults shall be employed a minimum of 20 hours per week or more as defined by the Secretary or meet certain exemptions, the bill would add exemptions for:

- Adults enrolled in a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school, making progress toward graduation, for up to 48 months; and
- Adults enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution for at least six credit hours that are required to obtain a degree or certificate, for up to 72 months.

The bill would remove provisions requiring the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to provide child care for the pursuit of any degree or certification under certain

*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>

conditions, subject to a lifetime maximum of 24 months per adult, requiring students to be employed for a minimum of 15 hours per week, and not allowing child care in a two-parent adult household if both parents are adults and attending a formal education or training program at the same time.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Children and Seniors at the request of Representative Concannon on behalf of Kansas Action for Children.

House Committee on Children and Seniors

In the House Committee hearing on February 22, 2021, representatives of ChildCare Aware of Kansas, DCF, Kansas Action for Children, Kansas Appleseed, and Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence; an associate professor at The Ohio State University, College of Social Work; and a private citizen testified as **proponents** of the bill, stating the bill would increase access to the child care and food assistance programs, which would remove educational barriers and enhance economic opportunity.

Written-only **proponent** testimony was submitted by representatives of Aligned, Association of Kansas Food Banks, Coffeyville Public Schools, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Crawford County Mental Health, The Family Conservancy, Family Crisis Services, The Family Resource Center, Finney County Economic Development Corporation, Googols of Learning Child Development Center, Health Forward Foundation, Hilltop Child Development Center, Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children, Kansas Children's Service League, Kansas Head State Association, Kansas Parents as Teachers, Kansas Public Health Association, March of Dimes, Northrock, Inc., Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, Montgomery County Action Council, Nurture KC, Safehouse

Crisis Center, Inc., and United Way: Success by 6; a family response advocate; and two private citizens.

A representative of Opportunity Solutions Project testified as an **opponent** of the bill, stating current law allows exemptions to the eligibility requirements for good cause, and removing child support cooperation requirements would reduce collection of rightfully-due child support.

On February 25, 2021, the House Committee amended the bill to add progress, degree, and minimum credit hour requirements and maximum benefit periods to the educational exemptions created by the bill and to change the term “private” to “nonpublic.”

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill as introduced, DCF indicates the bill would increase the caseload for child care assistance. The agency estimates the caseload for child care assistance could increase an average of 130 cases per month for FY 2022, which would require additional expenditures of \$1,382,298 from federal funds. The agency estimates cases would increase to an average of 370 cases per month in FY 2023, resulting in additional costs of \$4,129,985 in FY 2023 from federal funds. The estimates assume 24 months of child case assistance would be provided from the removal of the work requirement for adults in school. The agency estimates the caseload would level off in FY 2024 at an average increase of 480 cases per month.

The agency indicates it would also need to add 15.00 FTE human services positions at a cost of \$863,027 from all funding sources in FY 2022, including \$388,276 from the State General Fund. Additionally, the bill would change eligibility requirements that could require information technology changes. The agency estimates these one-time costs could be \$1.0 million from all funding sources in FY 2022, including \$435,540, from the State General Fund.

Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2022 Governor's Budget Report*.

Eligibility for public benefits; food assistance; child support; 20-hour-per-week work requirement; exemptions