

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Susan Concannon, Chairperson
House Committee on Children and Seniors
Statehouse, Room 149A-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Concannon:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2115 by House Committee on Children and Seniors

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2115 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2115 would establish the Joint Committee on Child Welfare System Oversight. The duties of the Committee would be to review the following:

1. Data on child maltreatment and demographic trends impacting the child welfare system;
2. The duties, responsibilities and contributions of multiple state agencies that impact the child welfare system;
3. The programs, services and benefits offered directly or through grants or contracts by the multiple state agencies who are involved in the child welfare system;
4. Trends, performance outcomes, activities and improvement plans related to the federal child and family services reviews;
5. Reports from child welfare-related groups;
6. Implementation of the 2019 Child Welfare System Task Force report recommendations;
7. Reports on concerns received from the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) Child Welfare Ombudsman or customer service department or similar office;
8. Opportunities for Kansas to strengthen the child welfare system through evidence-based interventions and services; and
9. Any other topic the Committee deems appropriate.

The Committee would comprise 11 members of the Legislature to serve for terms coinciding with their elected or appointed terms. The committee would be required to meet on or after January 1, 2021. After the first meeting, the committee would be required to meet at least once in January and once in April, and at least once during each of the third and fourth calendar quarters, not to exceed six meetings in a calendar year.

The Committee would provide an annual report at the beginning of each regular legislative session. Members of the Committee would be paid compensation, travel expenses and subsistence expenses as provided in current law for attending meetings. The Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) may provide professional services as requested by the Committee. The Committee may make recommendations and introduce legislation as necessary in performing its functions.

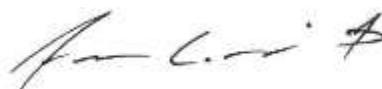
According to DCF, the Committee began meeting in August 2020. DCF has been providing materials, data and testimony, as needed. Any DCF staff time required by the bill is already included within the DCF's current budget. DCF also assumes that there would be no fiscal effect on the agency for external members travel expenses, as the bill states those expenses would be the responsibility of the LCC.

Legislative Administrative Services indicates that enactment of SB 120 would increase expenditures by \$30,009 from the State General Fund in FY 2022. The amount includes expenditures for 11 members for salaries, subsistence, mileage, tolls, and other expenses of \$25,949. There would also be committee assistant costs of \$4,060.

The passage of HB 2115 could have a fiscal effect on expenditures of the Judiciary. Judiciary staff may be asked to make presentations at committee meetings or provide other information upon request. However, the Office of Judicial Administration indicates the cost for staff time is unknown.

The Kansas Department of Corrections and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment indicate that enactment of HB 2115 would have no fiscal effect on the agencies, respectively. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2115 is not reflected in *The FY 2022 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Randy Bowman, Corrections
Debbie Thomas, Judiciary
Connie Hubbell, Aging & Disability Services
Kim Holter, Children & Families
Karen Clowers, Legislative Services
Dan Thimmesch, Health & Environment