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MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Children and Seniors
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 4, 2021
Subject: House Bill 2115

HB 2115 creates the Joint Committee on Child Welfare System Oversight. The joint committee shall review the following topics:

- (1) Data on child maltreatment and demographics;
- (2) the duties, responsibilities and contributions of the Kansas department for children and families, the Kansas department for aging and disability services, the department of health and environment, the department of corrections, law enforcement and the judicial branch that make up the child welfare system;
- (3) grants or contracts by the Kansas department for children and families, the Kansas department for aging and disability services, the department of health and environment and the judicial branch that impact children and families involved or at risk of becoming involved with the child welfare system, including prevention and investigations of child maltreatment, in-home family services, foster care, reintegration and adoption services;
- (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 by the Kansas department for children and families child welfare ombudsman or customer service department or similar office;
- (8) opportunities to strengthen the child welfare system; and
- (9) any other topic the joint committee deems appropriate.

The joint committee shall have the following members:

- (1) Two members of children and seniors appointed by the Speaker;
- (2) one member of children and seniors appointed by the House Minority Leader;
- (3) two members of public health and welfare appointed by the Senate President;
- (4) one member of public health and welfare appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
- (5) two members appointed by the Speaker;
- (6) one member appointed by the House Minority Leader; and
- (7) two members appointed the Senate President.

The first chairperson shall be selected by the Speaker from the Speaker's appointments on the joint committee within 30 days of the effective date of the section. The chair and the vice-chair shall alternate between the Speaker and President's appointments. The ranking minority member shall be from the same chamber as the chair and appointed by the Minority Leader of that chamber.

The joint committee shall meet upon the call of the chair at least in January and in April during the session and at least once in the third and fourth quarter of each year. There shall be not more than 6 meetings a year. A quorum is 6 members of the joint committee.

The joint committee shall submit a report annually to the President, Speaker, children and seniors and public health and welfare. The report shall include recommended changes to current laws, rules and regulations and policies regarding the safety and well-being of children in the Kansas child welfare system. This bill also grants the joint committee the power to introduce legislation.

Members shall be paid subsistence for attending any joint committee or subcommittee meetings. The LCC shall provide any professional services requested by the joint committee.

HB 2115 would become effective upon publication in the Kansas Register.