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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: House of Representatives Committee on Children and Seniors
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 23, 2021
Subject: House Bill 2271

HB 2271 amends two statutes related to who may be under the court's jurisdiction and adds options to remain under or re-enter the court's jurisdiction.

First, the bill would create a new definition for an "adult child in need of care" in K.S.A. 38-2202. An adult child in need of care would be a person at least 18 years of age, but less than 21 years of age, who, other than the age, meets the definition of a child in need of care under subsection (d). The definition of child in need of care lists multiple factors that identify a child as a child in need of care.

Second, the bill amends K.S.A. 38-2203, the statute that authorizes the court's jurisdiction over a child in need of care. In new subsection (c)(3), a court shall not terminate jurisdiction if any current child in need of care under 21 requested that the court not terminate jurisdiction. In new subsection (c)(4), an adult child in need of care who was previously under the court's jurisdiction, would be able to apply to the Kansas department for Children and Families to be placed in the Secretary's custody. The application would include how the jurisdiction would be beneficial and may include a letter of recommendation. Upon reviewing such application, the Department could refer the case to a county or district attorney to file a petition. An adult child under the court's jurisdiction would participate in case planning, attend school or work, and make efforts towards independence. If the adult child fails to do so, the department could petition for termination.

The section would take effect upon publication in the statute book.