

SESSION OF 2021

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2127

As Amended by House Committee on Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2127, as amended, would modify the law governing access to confidential information regarding children alleged or adjudicated to be in need of care, by requiring the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary) to release certain information to the public, in response to an open records request and within seven business days of receipt of such request, if criminal charges related to a child fatality involving an allegation of child abuse or neglect are filed against a person.

[*Note:* Continuing law requires release of the same information in response to an open records request if child abuse or neglect results in a child fatality. The required information includes age and sex of the child, date of fatality, a summary of previous reports of abuse or neglect received by the Secretary involving the child, along with the findings of such reports, and department-recommended services provided to the child.]

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Judiciary at the request of a representative of the Department for Children and Families (DCF).

*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>

House Committee on Judiciary

In the House Committee hearing on February 1, 2021, the Secretary testified as a **proponent** of the bill, stating the bill would ensure DCF is able to release publicly relevant information consistent with criminal justice system releases. Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by representatives of Children's Alliance of Kansas and FosterAdopt Connect.

No neutral or **opponent** testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to clarify the circumstances requiring release of the information.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, DCF and the Office of Judicial Administration indicate enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on DCF or the Judiciary, respectively.

Release of information; Department for Children and Families; abuse or neglect; child fatality