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Laura Kelly, Governor

January 19, 2023

The Honorable Susan Concannon, Chairperson House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care 300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 152-S Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Concannon:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2024 by Joint Committee on Child Welfare System Oversight

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2024 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2024 would amend the Newborn Infant Protection Act by defining "infant refuge bassinet," and allow someone to surrender an infant who is 60 days old or younger to an employee at a medical care facility without a court order. A facility that installs an infant refuge bassinet would be required to install a dual alarm system connected to the location of the bassinet that must be tested weekly and visually checked at least twice per day to ensure the alarm is in working order. It would also make a relinquishing parent immune from civil or criminal liability if the relinquishing parent voluntarily delivers the infant to an infant refuge bassinet.

The Office of Judicial Administration and the Department for Children and Families indicate that HB 2024 would have no fiscal effect on the Branch or state agency, respectively.

The Kansas Association of Counties states that if an infant bassinet were installed at a location, counties could see some costs associated with installation of the bassinet. The Association also states that there is no requirement that a facility must have this type of bassinet, so a county could choose to have this available or not. The League of Kansas Municipalities indicates the bill would increase expenditures of cities that install refuge bassinets.

Sincerely,

Adam Proffitt

Director of the Budget

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cc: Vicki Jacobsen, Judiciary
Jay Hall, Kansas Association of Counties
Kim Holter, Department for Children & Families
Wendi Stark, League of Kansas Municipalities