

**As Amended by House Committee**

*Session of 2021*

**HOUSE BILL No. 2115**

By Committee on Children and Seniors

1-22

1 AN ACT concerning the legislature; relating to children and minors; the  
2 safety and well-being of children in the child welfare system in the  
3 state of Kansas; establishing the joint committee on child welfare  
4 system oversight; prescribing duties and membership thereof; requiring  
5 an annual report to the legislature.

6  
7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the joint committee on child  
9 welfare system oversight. The joint committee shall review:

10 (1) Data on child maltreatment and demographic trends impacting the  
11 child welfare system;

12 (2) the duties, responsibilities and contributions of the Kansas  
13 department for children and families, the Kansas department for aging and  
14 disability services, the department of health and environment, the  
15 department of corrections, law enforcement and the judicial branch that  
16 comprise and impact the child welfare system;

17 (3) the programs, services and benefits offered directly or through  
18 grants or contracts by the Kansas department for children and families, the  
19 Kansas department for aging and disability services, the department of  
20 health and environment and the judicial branch that impact children and  
21 families at risk of becoming involved or who are involved in the child  
22 welfare system, including:

23 (A) Child maltreatment prevention;

24 (B) investigations of child maltreatment;

25 (C) in-home family services, including services offered through  
26 federal prevention and family preservation funding; and

27 (D) foster care, reintegration and adoption services;

28 (4) trends, performance outcomes, activities and improvement plans  
29 related to the federal child and family services reviews;

30 (5) reports from child welfare-related groups, including, but not  
31 limited to, citizen review panels, the Kansas supreme court permanency  
32 planning task force, the Kansas children's cabinet and any interim study  
33 committees or work groups authorized by the Kansas legislature;

34 (6) implementation of the 2019 child welfare system task force report  
35 recommendations, including top-tier recommendations related to the child  
36 welfare workforce, data technology, access to behavioral healthcare for

1 high-risk youth and implementation of the federal family first prevention  
2 services act;

3 (7) reports on concerns received from the Kansas department for  
4 children and families child welfare ombudsman or customer service  
5 department or similar office;

6 (8) opportunities for Kansas to strengthen the child welfare system  
7 through evidence-based interventions and services for children and  
8 families; and

9 (9) any other topic the joint committee deems appropriate.

10 (b) The joint committee shall consist of ~~11~~**13** members of the  
11 legislature appointed as follows:

12 (1) Two members of the house of representatives standing committee  
13 on children and seniors appointed by the speaker of the house of  
14 representatives;

15 (2) one member of the house of representatives standing committee  
16 on children and seniors appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
17 representatives;

18 (3) two members the senate standing committee on public health and  
19 welfare appointed by the president of the senate;

20 (4) one member of the senate standing committee on public health  
21 and welfare appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

22 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the  
23 speaker of the house of representatives;

24 (6) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the  
25 minority leader of the house of representatives;

26 (7) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the  
27 senate;

28 **(8) one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of**  
29 **the senate; and**

30 **(9) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the**  
31 **majority leader of the house of representatives.**

32 (c) Members shall be appointed for terms coinciding with the  
33 legislative terms for which such members are elected or appointed. All  
34 members appointed to fill vacancies in the membership of the joint  
35 committee and all members appointed to succeed members appointed to  
36 the membership on the joint committee shall be appointed in the manner  
37 provided for the original appointment of the member succeeded.

38 (d) (1) The first chairperson of the joint committee shall be appointed  
39 by the speaker of the house of representatives from among the members of  
40 the joint committee appointed by the speaker of the house of  
41 representatives, within 30 days of the effective date of this section. The  
42 chairperson and vice-chairperson of the joint committee shall alternate  
43 annually between the members appointed by the speaker of the house or

1 representatives and the president of the senate.

2 (2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall designate a  
3 representative member to be the chairperson or the vice-chairperson of the  
4 joint committee as provided in this section. The president of the senate  
5 shall designate a senator member to be the chairperson or the vice-  
6 chairperson of the joint committee as provided in this section. The ranking  
7 minority member shall be from the same chamber as the chairperson. The  
8 minority leader of the senate shall designate a senator member to the the  
9 ranking minority member of the joint committee as provided in this  
10 section. The minority leader of the house of representatives shall designate  
11 a representative member to be the ranking minority member of the joint  
12 committee as provided in this section.

13 (e) The members originally appointed as members of the joint  
14 committee shall meet upon the call of the chairperson on or after January  
15 1, 2021. Thereafter, the joint committee shall meet at least once ~~in January~~  
16 ~~and once in April~~ **during each of the first and second calendar quarters**  
17 when the legislature is in regular session and at least once during each of  
18 the third and fourth calendar quarters, on the call of the chairperson, but  
19 not to exceed six meetings in a calendar year.

20 (f) ~~Six~~**Seven** members of the joint committee shall constitute a  
21 quorum.

22 (g) At the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, the  
23 joint committee shall submit to the president of the senate, the speaker of  
24 the house of representatives, the house standing committee on children and  
25 seniors and the senate standing committee on public health and welfare a  
26 written report that shall include recommended changes to current laws,  
27 rules and regulations and policies regarding the safety and well-being of  
28 children in the child welfare system in the state of Kansas.

29 (h) Members of the joint committee shall be paid compensation,  
30 amounts for travel expenses and subsistence expenses or allowances as  
31 provided in K.S.A. 75-3212, and amendments thereto, for attendance at  
32 any meeting of the joint committee or any subcommittee meeting  
33 authorized by the committee.

34 (i) In accordance with K.S.A. 46-1204, and amendments thereto, the  
35 legislative coordinating council may provide for such professional services  
36 as may be requested by the joint committee.

37 (j) The joint committee may make recommendations and introduce  
38 legislation as it deems necessary in performing its functions.

39 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
40 publication in the Kansas register.