Session of 2026

HOUSE BILL No. 2524

By Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

Requested by John Monroe on behalf of KVC Kansas

1-22

AN ACT concerning child care facilities; relating to licensure of family foster homes; requiring the secretary for children and families to license or allow maintenance of licensure of family foster homes when certain persons reside in such homes; permitting the secretary, when not required, to license or allow maintenance of licensure; creating an appeal process for family foster homes; amending K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 65-516 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 65-516 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-516. (a) *Except as provided in subsection (d),* no person shall knowingly maintain a child care facility if an employee who, in this state or in other states or the federal government:

(1) (A) Has been convicted of a crime that is classified as a person felony under the Kansas criminal code;

(B) has been convicted of a felony under K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 21-36a01 through 21-36a17, prior to their transfer, or article 57 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, or any felony violation of any provision of the uniform controlled substances act prior to July 1, 2009;

(C) has been convicted of any act that is described in articles 34, 35 or 36 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, prior to their repeal, or article 54, 55 or 56 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, or K.S.A. 21-6104, 21-6325, 21-6326, 21-6418 through 21-6422 or 21-6424, and amendments thereto, or been convicted of an attempt under K.S.A. 21-3301, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 21-5301, and amendments thereto, to commit any such act or been convicted of conspiracy under K.S.A. 21-3302, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 21-5302, and amendments thereto, to commit such act, or similar statutes of any other state or the federal government;

(D) has been convicted of any act that is described in K.S.A. 21-4301 or 21-4301a, prior to their repeal, or K.S.A. 21-6401, and amendments thereto, or similar statutes of any other state or the federal government; or

(E) has been convicted of any act that is described in K.S.A. 21-3718 or 21-3719, prior to their repeal, or K.S.A. 21-5812, and amendments

thereto, or similar statutes of any other state or the federal government;

(2) ~~except as provided in subsection (b),~~ has been adjudicated a juvenile offender because of having committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute the commission of a felony and that is a crime against persons, is any act described in articles 34, 35 or 36 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, prior to their repeal, or article 54, 55 or 56 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, or K.S.A. 21-6104, 21-6325, 21-6326, 21-6418 through 21-6422 or 21-6424, and amendments thereto, or similar statutes of any other state or the federal government, or is any act described in K.S.A. 21-4301 or 21-4301a, prior to their repeal, or K.S.A. 21-6401, and amendments thereto, or similar statutes of any other state or the federal government;

(3) has been convicted or adjudicated of a crime that requires registration as a sex offender under the Kansas offender registration act, K.S.A. 22-4901 et seq., and amendments thereto, as a sex offender in any other state or as a sex offender on the national sex offender registry;

(4) has committed an act of physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect or sexual abuse and who is listed in the child abuse and neglect registry maintained by the Kansas department for children and families pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2226, and amendments thereto, or any similar child abuse and neglect registries maintained by any other state or the federal government and:

(A) The person has failed to successfully complete a corrective action plan that had been deemed appropriate and approved by the Kansas department for children and families or requirements of similar entities in any other state or the federal government; or

(B) the record has not been expunged pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the secretary for children and families or similar entities in any other state or the federal government;

(5) has had a child removed from home based on a court order pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2251, and amendments thereto, in this state, or a court order in any other state based upon a similar statute that finds the child to be deprived or a child in need of care based on a finding of physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect or sexual abuse and the child has not been returned to the home or the child reaches majority before being returned to the home and the person has failed to satisfactorily complete a corrective action plan approved by the department of health and environment;

(6) has had parental rights terminated pursuant to the revised Kansas code for care of children, or a similar statute of other states;

(7) has signed a diversion agreement pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2906 et seq., and amendments thereto, or an immediate intervention agreement

pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2346, and amendments thereto, involving a charge of child abuse or a sexual offense; or

(8) has an infectious or contagious disease.

(b) ~~If the secretary determines that there is no safety concern, The secretary may license a family foster home, as defined in K.S.A. 38-134, and amendments thereto, when a person who has been adjudicated as a juvenile offender for an offense described in subsection (a)(2):~~

~~(1) Was a child in the custody of the secretary and placed with such family foster home by the secretary;~~

~~(2) is 18 years of age or older;~~

~~(3) (A) maintains residence at such family foster home; or~~

~~(B) has been legally adopted by any person who resides at such family foster home; and~~

~~(4) six months have passed since the date of adjudication.~~

~~(c)~~ No person shall maintain a child care facility if such person has been found to be a person in need of a guardian or a conservator, or both, as provided in K.S.A. 59-3050 through 59-3095, and amendments thereto.

~~(d)~~*(c)* Any person who resides in a child care facility and who has been found to be in need of a guardian or a conservator, or both, shall be counted in the total number of children allowed in care.

(d) (1) The secretary for children and families shall grant a license to or allow maintenance of an existing license of a family foster home, as defined in K.S.A. 38-134, and amendments thereto, when:

(A) Such applicant or licensee otherwise qualifies for such licensure; and

(B) a person who resides in such home:

(i) Was a child in custody of and placed in such home by the secretary;

(ii) is more than 18 years of age but less than 26 years of age; and

(iii) maintains residence in such home or has been legally adopted by a person who resides in such home.

(2) The secretary for children and families may grant a license to or allow maintenance of an existing license of a family foster home, as defined in K.S.A. 38-134, and amendments thereto, when:

(A) A person is older than 26 years of age but otherwise meets the requirements of paragraph (1); or

(B) an applicant or licensee is not granted or allowed to maintain a license under this subsection.

(3) (A) An applicant or licensee may appeal to the secretary for children and families for review, if such secretary has not granted or allowed the maintenance of a license when such licensure shall or may be otherwise granted or allowed to be maintained under this subsection.

(B) Upon review of such appeal, licensure may be granted or allowed

to be maintained by the secretary, whose decision shall be final.

(e) In accordance with the provisions of this subsection, the secretary of health and environment shall have access to any court orders or adjudications of any court of record, any records of such orders or adjudications, criminal history record information including, but not limited to, diversion agreements, in the possession of the Kansas bureau of investigation and any report of investigations as authorized by K.S.A. 38-2226, and amendments thereto, in the possession of the Kansas department for children and families or court of this state concerning employees in a child care facility. The secretary shall have access to these records for the purpose of determining whether or not the home meets the requirements of K.S.A. 59-2132, 65-503, 65-508 and 65-516, and amendments thereto.

(f) In accordance with the provisions of this subsection, the secretary is authorized to conduct national criminal history record checks to determine criminal history on employees in a child care facility. In order to conduct a national criminal history check the secretary shall require fingerprinting for identification and determination of criminal history in accordance with K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 22-4714, and amendments thereto.

(g) (1) The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations to fix a fee for fingerprinting employees in a child care facility, as may be required by the department to reimburse the department for the cost of the fingerprinting.

(2) The secretary shall remit all moneys received from the fees established under this section to the state treasurer in accordance with K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the child care criminal background and fingerprinting fund.

(h) The child care criminal background and fingerprinting fund is hereby created in the state treasury to be administered by the secretary of health and environment. All moneys credited to the child care criminal background and fingerprinting fund shall be used to pay local and state law enforcement officers and agencies for the processing of fingerprints and criminal history background checks for the department. All expenditures from the child care criminal background and fingerprinting fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary or by a person designated by the secretary.

(i) The secretary shall notify the child care applicant or licensee, within seven days by certified mail with return receipt requested, when the result of the national criminal history record check or other appropriate review reveals unfitness specified in subsections (a)(1) through (8) with regard to the person who is the subject of the review.

(j) No child care facility or the employees thereof, shall be liable for

civil damages to any person refused employment or discharged from employment by reason of such facility's or home's compliance with the provisions of this section if such home acts in good faith to comply with this section.

(k) For the purpose of subsection (a)(3), a person listed in the child abuse and neglect central registry shall not be prohibited from residing, working or volunteering in a child care facility unless such person has:

(1) Had an opportunity to be interviewed and present information during the investigation of the alleged act of abuse or neglect; and

(2) been given notice of the agency decision and an opportunity to appeal such decision to the secretary and to the courts pursuant to the Kansas judicial review act.

(l) In regard to Kansas issued criminal history records:

(1) The secretary of health and environment shall provide in writing information available to the secretary to each child placement agency requesting information under this section, including the information provided by the Kansas bureau of investigation pursuant to this section, for the purpose of assessing the fitness of persons living, working or regularly volunteering in a family foster home under the child placement agency's sponsorship.

(2) The child placement agency is considered to be a governmental entity and the designee of the secretary of health and environment for the purposes of obtaining, using and disseminating information obtained under this section.

(3) The information shall be provided to the child placement agency regardless of whether the information discloses that the subject of the request has been convicted of any offense.

(4) Whenever the information available to the secretary reveals that the subject of the request has no criminal history on record, the secretary shall provide notice thereof in writing to each child placement agency requesting information under this section.

(5) Any staff person of a child placement agency who receives information under this subsection shall keep such information confidential, except that the staff person may disclose such information on a need-to-know basis to:

(A) The person who is the subject of the request for information;

(B) the applicant or operator of the family foster home in which the person lives, works or regularly volunteers;

(C) the department of health and environment;

(D) the Kansas department for children and families;

(E) the department of corrections; and

(F) the courts.

(6) A violation of paragraph (5) shall be an unclassified misdemeanor

punishable by a fine of $100 for each violation.

~~(m) (1) No person shall maintain a day care facility unless such person is a high school graduate or the equivalent thereof, except where extraordinary circumstances exist, the secretary of health and environment may exercise discretion to make exceptions to this requirement. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any person who was maintaining a day care facility on the day immediately prior to July 1, 2010, or who had an application for an initial license or the renewal of an existing license pending on July 1, 2010.~~

~~(2) This subsection shall expire on June 30, 2026.~~

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 65-516 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.