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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: January 21, 2026
Subject: Bill Brief for HB 2243 (As Introduced)

House Bill 2243 requires the secretary for children and families ("the secretary") to enter into a memorandum of understanding with military installations to refer children in need of care cases involving children of military personnel to a military family advocacy program.

Section 1 creates a new provision of law in the revised Kansas code for care of children. Subsection (a) provides that when the secretary makes a preliminary investigation pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2230 (section 2 of the bill) and the child who is the subject of the investigation has a parent or legal guardian who is military personnel at a military installation, the secretary shall make a referral to a military family advocacy program to provide the family with services that such program offers. As used in this section, "military family advocacy program" means a program established by the United States department of defense and provided at a military installation to address child abuse and neglect in military families.

Subsection (b) requires the secretary to enter into a memorandum of understanding with a military family advocacy program at each military installation in Kansas for the purpose of referring such cases. The memorandum shall include: a method for identifying such cases; the process for referring such cases; a requirement that the secretary notify the military family advocacy program when the secretary has referred a case involving a child with a parent or legal guardian who is military personnel to the county or district attorney for the purpose of filing a petition pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2233; and provisions that require compliance with confidentiality requirements in state and federal law. Subsection (c) provides that the secretary is still authorized to take action to protect the health and welfare of the child as necessary, including recommending to the county or district attorney that a petition be filed pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2233.

Section 2 amends K.S.A. 38-2230, a statute in the revised Kansas code for care of children relating to a preliminary inquiry whenever any person furnishes information to the secretary that a child appears to be a child in need of care. Current law provides that, whenever practicable, the inquiry shall include a preliminary investigation of the circumstances which were the subject of the information, including the home and environmental situation and the previous history of the child. The bill adds that the inquiry shall include the military status of a parent or legal guardian of the child pursuant to section 1.

The bill would take effect from and after publication in the statute book, July 1, 2026