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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 12, 2026
Subject: Bill Brief on House Bill 2536

House Bill 2536 requires proposed guardians for certain adults who have a cognitive impairment or are diagnosed with a neurological condition to complete training approved by the secretary for aging and disability services prior to appointment as a guardian.

The bill proposes a new section of law that would be a part of and supplemental to the Kansas uniform guardianship, conservatorship and other protective arrangements act. Subsection (a) requires the secretary for aging and disability services to approve training programs for proposed guardians for adults as described in K.S.A 59-30,149, and maintain a list of such approved programs for use by courts and proposed guardians.

Under subsection (b), the secretary shall require such training programs to provide specific guidance for proposed guardians who will be assisting adults who have a cognitive impairment or are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia or a similar neurological condition, which shall include: (1) Common aspects of normal aging; (2) warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and dementia; (3) effective strategies for communicating with such adults; and (4) effective strategies and resources available for supporting such adults in exercising their rights. Subsection (c) requires the application for approval of a training program under this section to be made to the secretary in such manner as the secretary may direct. The secretary may suspend or revoke approval of a program under this section if the secretary finds that such program is not in compliance with the criteria established in this section or rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this section.

Section 2 of the bill amends K.S.A. 59-30,149, a statute in the Kansas uniform guardianship, conservatorship and other protective arrangements act related to who may be a guardian for an adult. The bill adds a new subsection (f) to provide that if the respondent (the adult for whom

appointment of a guardian is sought) has cognitive impairment or has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia or a similar neurological condition, the court shall not appoint a person as guardian for such adult until such person completes a training program approved pursuant to section 1 and verifies completion of such program by filing an affidavit with the court. The court, acting in the best interest of the respondent, may waive the requirements of this subsection.

The house committee on judiciary made no amendments to the bill. It passed the house on a vote of 124 to 0 and would take effect on July 1, 2026, after publication in the statute book.