

SESSION OF 2007

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2241**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Federal and State Affairs

**Brief\***

HB 2241, as amended, would make changes to the Minors Act and the Divorce and Maintenance Act with regard to grandparents' rights. The bill would permit grandparents under the Minors Act the right to intervene in a pending litigation involving child custody or visitation and request the court to consider granting the grandparents' visitation. Under current law, the district court may grant the grandparents of an unmarried minor child reasonable visitation rights to the child.

The bill also would permit grandparents under the Divorce and Maintenance Act the right to intervene in a pending litigation involving child custody or visitation and request the court to consider granting the grandparents visitation rights based on a finding that the visitation rights would be in the child's best interests and when a substantial relationship between the child and the grandparent has been established. Under current law, grandparents and stepparents may be granted visitation rights.

**Background**

Proponents for the bill included Representative Brunk, and two practicing attorneys.

The House Committee made a technical change to the bill to clarify that grandparents and stepparents may be granted visitation rights based upon a finding that the visitation rights

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

would be in the child's best interests and when a substantial relationship between the child and the grandparent or stepparent has been established.

The fiscal note states that enactment of the bill has the potential for lengthening hearings involving custody or visitation rights. The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that there would be a fiscal effect on the operations of the court system. However, it is not possible to predict how time-consuming the cases would be. Therefore, a precise fiscal effect cannot be determined. In any case, the fiscal effect would most likely be accommodated within the existing schedule of court cases and would not require additional resources.