



February 4, 2026

The Honorable Cyndi Howerton, Chairperson
House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 152-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Howerton:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2601 by House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2601 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2601 would establish a child abuse and neglect central registry to be maintained by the Secretary for Children and Families. The bill would provide procedures and protections for placing individuals on the child abuse and neglect registry. Except where placement is ordered by a court, the Secretary would not place an alleged perpetrator on the registry without providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing and any subsequent appeals. If the Secretary's investigation substantiates abuse or neglect, the Secretary would place the individual on the registry only after notice and an administrative hearing conducted under the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act, with a presiding officer who is not the Secretary or a designee.

The individual could waive a hearing and could be represented by counsel, and the presiding officer would issue written findings and order placement only if the evidence establishes substantiation by a preponderance of the evidence. An individual ordered to be placed on the registry could appeal to district court under the Kansas Judicial Review Act within 12 months. If a county or district attorney files a petition alleging a crime against a child or abuse/neglect under the revised Kansas Code for Care of Children, the petition would be required to request a court order that the Secretary place the individual on the registry, and a conviction, adjudication, or court finding likewise requires the court to order placement.

The Secretary would be required to expunge a name on a request when three years have passed since the order or when new information or changed circumstances warrant removal.

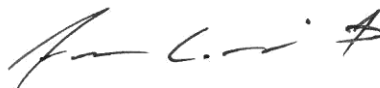
Registry information would be confidential and protected, except where statutes permit disclosure, and the Secretary could maintain any federally required registry consistent with federal law.

The bill would amend current law to no longer automatically prohibit an individual from residing, working, or volunteering in a child care facility, unless the person is given an opportunity to be interviewed and to present information during the investigation of the alleged abuse or neglect. In addition, the person has to be provided with notice of the agency's decision and the opportunity to appeal. These amendments would be supplemental to the revised Kansas Code for Care of Children.

According to the Office of Judicial Administration, enactment of HB 2601 could increase the number of cases filed in district courts because it would allow an individual ordered to be placed on the child abuse and neglect registry to appeal such decision to the district court pursuant to the Kansas judicial review act within 12 months after the order was entered. This would increase the time spent by district court judicial and nonjudicial personnel in processing, researching, and hearing cases. The bill's enactment would result in the collection of docket fees in cases filed under the provisions of the bill, which would be deposited in the State General Fund. However, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

The Department for Children and Families indicates that enactment of HB 2601 would not have a fiscal effect on the agency. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2601 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt", followed by a stylized flourish or symbol.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Trisha Morrow, Judiciary
Kim Holter, Department for Children & Families