

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2075

As Amended by Senate Committee on Public
Health and Welfare

Brief*

HB 2075, as amended, would amend law in the Revised Kansas Code for the Care of Children concerning the time by which a permanency hearing for a child in custody of the Secretary for Children and Families must be held.

The bill would require such hearings be held within nine months of a child's removal from the home and would require subsequent hearings be held every six months thereafter. [Note: Current law requires a permanency hearing be held within 12 months of removal, and every 12 months thereafter.]

The bill would also make technical amendments.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care at the request of the Secretary for Children and Families.

House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

In the House Committee hearing on January 29, 2025, **proponent** testimony was provided by the Kansas Child Advocate and representatives of the Children's Alliance of Kansas and Department for Children and Families (DCF). Conferees generally stated that a reduction in time between

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

the first and second permanency hearing would decrease the time children are removed from their families and allow the foster care system to work toward its goal of reuniting families.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of EmberHope Connections, Family Reunion USA, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, and the Kansas Children's Service League.

The House Committee hearing was reopened on February 7, 2025, to allow the Committee to ask questions of proponents. A representative of the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) also provided neutral testimony on the bill, noting concerns regarding the effectiveness of reducing the time between permanency hearings and the potential burden district courts may face if not given adequate time to implement the new hearing schedule.

The House Committee amended the bill to require subsequent permanency hearings be held every six months.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by the Deputy Secretary, DCF. The proponent stated the purpose of the bill is to reduce the amount of time children are separated from family and kin while in the custody of the Secretary for Children and Families and placed in foster care out-of-home placement. The proponent stated the goals of the bill are to achieve timely legal permanency and improve national performance for timely permanency for children in care.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Child Advocate and representatives of the Children's

Alliance of Kansas, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, and Kansas Children's Service League.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make technical changes.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, DCF estimates that 50.0 percent of children in foster care would have two fewer months in out-of-home placement if the bill is enacted. The Department indicates this would result in annual potential savings of \$7.0 million, including \$4.9 million from the State General Fund, beginning in FY 2026.

OJA indicates that enactment of the bill would have negligible fiscal effect on the Judiciary Branch. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Permanency; permanency hearing; child in need of care; Revised Kansas Code for the Care of Children