

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2075

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

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 (Secretary) must be held, require confirmation of reasonable efforts for reintegration at each permanency hearing, and require the court to make a finding as to the reasonable efforts made for reintegration.

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 require the court to enter a finding at each permanency hearing as to whether reasonable efforts had been made by the appropriate public or private agencies to reintegrate the family. [Note: Current law requires a finding at the time of the hearing regarding efforts to rehabilitate the family.] The bill would also require confirmation from a child's biological parent or other interested parties that the Secretary has made reasonable efforts for reintegration prior to a permanency hearing being held.

The bill would also make technical amendments.

*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/>

Background

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

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 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.

No other testimony was provided.

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

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 also 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.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to require confirmation of the Secretary's reasonable efforts at reintegration prior to a permanency hearing and to require the court to make a finding at each permanency hearing regarding reasonable efforts made for reintegration.

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; reintegration