

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2243

As Amended by House Committee on Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2243, as amended, would create and amend law in the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children (CINC Code) concerning the process of referring military children to services that a military family advocacy program (MFAP) offers when the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary) makes an investigation to determine whether a child is in need of care.

The bill would require the Secretary to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with specified military organizations in Kansas for the purpose of referring cases involving children with a parent or legal guardian who is a military personnel to a MFAP for services.

Specified military organizations would include:

- United State Army Garrison, Fort Riley;
- McConnell Air Force Base;
- United State Army Garrison, Fort Leavenworth, including Munson Army Health Center; and
- The Kansas National Guard.

The MOU would be required to include:

- A method for identifying whether a child has a parent or legal guardian who is a military personnel;

*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 process for referring identified cases to the MFAP;
- A requirement that the Secretary notify the MFAP when the Secretary has referred a case to the county or district attorney for the purpose of filing a CINC petition; and
- Provisions that require compliance with confidentiality requirements in state and federal law.

The bill would provide that none of its provisions would prevent the Secretary from taking action to protect the health and welfare of the child as necessary, including recommending to the county or district attorney that a CINC petition be filed.

The bill would define “military family advocacy program” to mean a program established by the U.S. Department of Defense and provided at a military installation to address child abuse and neglect in military families. [Note: the U.S. Department of Defense is now referred to as the U.S. Department of War in official communications, per Executive Order 14347, signed September 5, 2025.]

The bill would also amend law concerning the Secretary’s ability to make preliminary investigations into whether a child is in need of care to include, as part of such investigation, the military status of a parent or legal guardian of the child.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Judiciary at the request of Representative Proctor on behalf of Michelle Richart.

House Committee on Judiciary

In the House Committee hearing, representatives of the the Department for Children and Families (DCF) and the U.S. Department of War testified as **proponents** of the bill, generally stating that this bill would mandate and formalize a practice that is already frequently occurring within the state.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas National Guard and the Military Officers Association of America, and two private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Clarify that the Secretary must make a referral to the appropriate military organization for services that an MFAP provides when making an investigation into whether a child is need of care; and
- Clarify that the MOUs required by the bill are to be established between DCF and specified military organizations rather than between DCF and military installations.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, DCF indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency.

Children and minors; child in need of care; military personnel; military organization; military family advocacy program