

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2412

As Recommended by House Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2412 would increase the penalties for the crimes of endangering a child and aggravated endangering a child when such child is less than 6 years of age.

Endangering a Child

The bill would provide that endangering a child who is at least 6 years of age but less than 18 years of age is a class A person misdemeanor. For endangering a child who is less than 6 years of age, the bill would classify such crime as a severity level 9 person felony. [Note: Current law provides that endangering a child regardless of the child's age is a class A person misdemeanor.]

Aggravated Endangering a Child

The bill would provide that aggravated endangering a child who is at least 6 years of age but less than 18 years of age would be a severity level 9 person felony. For aggravated endangering a child who is less than 6 years of age, the bill would classify such crime as a severity level 8 person felony. [Note: Current law provides that aggravated endangering a child regardless of the child's age is a severity level 9 person felony.]

*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/>

Aggravated Endangering a Child When Bodily Harm Inflicted

The bill would provide that aggravated endangering a child when bodily harm is inflicted would be a severity level 6 person felony. For aggravated endangering a child when bodily harm is inflicted and when such child is less than 6 years of age, the bill would classify the crime as a severity level 5 person felony. [Note: Current law provides that aggravated endangering a child when bodily harm is inflicted, regardless of the child's age, is a severity level 6 person felony.]

The bill would also make technical amendments.

Background

The bill was pre-filed for introduction on December 10, 2025, by Representative Collins.

House Committee on Judiciary

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Collins, a representative of Project Heaven, and two private citizens testified as **proponents** to the bill. The proponents generally stated their belief that increasing penalties for these crimes would ensure accountability for offenders who may endanger children in the future.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a private citizen.

Opponent testimony was provided by one private citizen, who stated harsher penalties do not deter offenders of this type of crime.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Board of Indigents' Defense Services estimates enactment of the bill would increase State General Fund (SGF) expenditures on legal counsel by \$437,500 in fiscal year (FY) 2027 and FY 2028.

The Kansas Sentencing Commission estimates that enactment of the bill would result in an increase of four adult prison beds needed by the end of FY 2036.

The Department of Corrections indicates enactment of the bill would increase SGF expenditures by \$2,993 to house one additional resident in FY 2028.

The Judicial Branch indicates that enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on its operations. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Association of Counties indicate that enactment of the bill would have a negligible fiscal effect on local governments.

Crimes; punishment; criminal procedure; penalties; endangering a child; aggravated endangering a child