

SESSION OF 2026

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2527**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Corrections and Juvenile Justice

**Brief\***

HB 2527, as amended, would prohibit courts from assigning work release to certain persons required to register as a sex offender under the Kansas Offender Registration Act (Act), and would restrict such persons from the privilege of leaving actual confinement of the custody of the Secretary of Corrections (Secretary). The bill would also make technical amendments.

***Work Release***

Current law authorizes the court to assign a person convicted of certain misdemeanor or felony offenses to a work release program other than the programs under the control of the Secretary. The bill would prohibit a court from assigning persons who meet the following criteria to such work release:

- Persons currently required to register as a sex offender under the Act; and
- Whose underlying crime for which they are required to register was a crime committed when the offender was 18 years of age or older against a victim who was less than 16 years of age.

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\*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/>

### ***Privilege of Leaving Actual Confinement***

The bill would limit the privileges of leaving actual confinement for the following persons:

- Persons committed for an off-grid felony or a nondrug severity level 1 through 5 felony that requires registration under the Act;
- Persons committed for a crime that requires registration as a sex offender under the Act, and the crime was committed when the offender was 18 years of age or older against a victim who was less than 16 years of age; or
- Persons who, at the time of being committed, are required to register as a sex offender under the Act, and the underlying crime requiring registration was committed when the offender was 18 years of age or older against a victim who was less than 16 years of age.

Such persons would only be granted the privilege of leaving confinement for the following purposes:

- To travel to and from and visit at a specified place or places for a period of not to exceed 30 days for:
  - To visit a member of the person's immediate family who is in danger of death;
  - To attend the funeral services or other last rites of a member of the person's immediate family; or
  - To obtain health services otherwise not available to the person at an institution operated by the state; or
- As otherwise required by law.

## **Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice at the request of Representative Steele.

### ***House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice***

The House Committee held hearings on February 4 and 12, 2026. In the House Committee hearings, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representatives Barrett and Steele and a representative of Wabaunsee County Sheriffs Office. The proponents generally stated the bill would protect Kansas' most vulnerable population and codify currently implemented policies of the Department of Corrections.

**Opponent** testimony was provided by four private citizens. The opponents generally stated the bill would be a blanket policy with no individual considerations and the redundancy of codifying Department of Corrections policy and procedures is unnecessary.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Narrow the scope to registered offenders described in the brief; and
- Narrow the scope of the allowable reasons for such persons to utilize the privilege of release from the custody of the Secretary.

## **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Department of

Corrections indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on its operations.

The Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of the bill would increase its operating expenditures by a negligible amount that could be absorbed within existing resources. The Boards of Indigents' Defense Services indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on its operations.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates the bill could increase government expenditures if it increases the need for postrelease supervision or creates additional appeals. The League of Kansas Municipalities indicates the bill would have no fiscal effect on cities.

The Kansas Sentencing Commission estimates that enactment of the bill would have no impact on prison admissions or the number of prison beds needed.

Work release programs; sex offender registry