

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2536

As Recommended by House Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2536 would prohibit a court from appointing a person as a guardian for an adult diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a similar neurological condition until the person to be appointed files an affidavit with the court verifying completion of an approved training program. The bill would authorize the court to waive the training if it is in the best interest of the adult diagnosed with the condition, and any such waiver would be entered into the record of proceedings.

Training Program

The Secretary for Aging and Disability Services (Secretary) would be required to approve training programs for proposed guardians of adults who have cognitive impairment or are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a similar neurological condition.

The training would provide specific guidance for proposed guardians, including:

- Common aspects of normal aging;
- Warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and dementia;

*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/>

- Effective strategies for communicating with such adults; and
- Effective strategies and resources available for supporting such adults in exercising their rights.

Program approval applications would be filed with the Secretary in a manner the Secretary directs. The bill would authorize the Secretary to suspend or revoke approval if the Secretary finds a program is not in compliance with the established criteria pursuant to the bill or rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the bill.

The Secretary would be required to adopt rules and regulations to administer the provisions of the bill. The bill would be part of and supplemental to the Kansas Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Judiciary at the request of a representative of the Alzheimer's Association.

House Committee on Judiciary

In the House committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Alzheimer's Association and by four private citizens. The proponents generally stated the bill would provide essential training free of cost for court-appointed guardians of those with Alzheimer's and other similar conditions.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Alzheimer's Association of Central and Western Kansas and Kansas Advocates for Better Care; two representatives of Arcare, Inc.; and five private citizens.

Written-only **neutral** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS).

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Office of Judicial Administration states the bill could have a fiscal effect on expenditures of the Judicial Branch. The bill's provisions would require the court to obtain proof a guardian had received training before appointing the person as a guardian. Nevertheless, until the courts have had an opportunity to operate under the provisions of the bill, an accurate estimate of the fiscal effect on expenditures by the Judicial Branch cannot be given. Enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on revenues to the Judicial Branch or State General Fund.

The Kansas Guardianship Program (KGP) indicates that the bill would increase operating costs due to the implementation of the training program. KGP cannot estimate these costs, as it does not know the cost of the training or the amount of time it would take for the training. The bill would affect KGP for many years to come as the KGP relies on volunteers to be guardians. These volunteers participate in the KGP volunteer training and have the support and resources of KGP staff to assist them in making decisions for anyone they are guardian for. It could affect the agency's ability to recruit and retain volunteers.

KDADS indicates enactment of the bill would place administrative requirements on the agency that would expand oversight into the approval and regulation of training programs that did not formerly fall under the agency's core duties. KDADS would be required to ensure that any new training program approval and rulemaking responsibilities

would be adequately staffed and structured to maintain quality and accessibility of training to the public.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Guardianship; dementia; Alzheimer's disease; training; judiciary