

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 271

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 271, as amended, would change the household gross income eligibility requirement for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) from 250.0 percent of the 2008 federal poverty level to 250.0 percent of the current federal poverty income guidelines, with coverage subject to appropriation of funds and eligibility requirements.

The bill would also require the Secretary of Health and Environment (Secretary) to adopt rules and regulations to establish a premium by sliding-fee scale that charges per family.

The bill would allow coverage for pregnant Kansas children, subject to verification of pregnancy by the Secretary.

The bill would also allow coverage for an eligible child at time of renewal, if a family is eligible for coverage and pays all of the delinquent premiums.

The bill also would make technical amendments.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee of Ways and Means at the request of Senator Billinger.

*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/>

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of Kansas Action for Children and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The proponents stated Kansas is the only state with statutory language that ties CHIP eligibility to a specific year's federal poverty income level and that the fixed date has excluded some families from CHIP eligibility.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Community Care Network of Kansas, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Oral Health Kansas, Reach Healthcare Foundation, and United Methodist Health Ministry Fund.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to:

- Require the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations establishing a sliding-fee scale to charge a per child premium;
- Allow coverage for pregnant Kansas children upon verification of pregnancy by the Secretary; and
- Require payment of delinquent premiums owed before further coverage is available.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to change the sliding-fee scale to per family.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDHE states enactment of the bill would bring the statute in line with current practice and no fiscal effect is anticipated. Program expenditures for the CHIP program in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report* include eligibility of up to 250.0 percent of the current federal poverty income guidelines.

State Children's Health Insurance Program; federal poverty income guidelines; child pregnancy