

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2627

As Recommended by House Committee on
Welfare Reform

Brief*

HB 2627 would reorganize subsections within the public assistance statute (KSA 2023 Supp. 39-709) pertaining to eligibility requirements for the cash assistance program (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or TANF), the food assistance program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP), and the child care subsidy program; general requirements related to drug screenings and convictions, assignment of support rights to the Secretary for Children and Families and limited power of attorney; and provisions related to fraud investigations.

The bill would also move existing language within the subsection on the medical assistance program (Medicaid or KanCare) that pertains to the subjects of the newly reorganized subsections to the corresponding subsections. Additionally, the bill would update statutory references in KSA 39-737 to reflect the reorganized subsections.

The bill would also make technical amendments to ensure consistency in statutory phrasing.

Reorganization of Subsections

The statute would be reorganized into the following subsections:

*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 <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- Subsection (a): General eligibility requirements for public assistance for which federal moneys are spent for TANF, the food assistance program, and the child care subsidy program; [*Note*: The general eligibility requirements in continuing law are qualifying income, citizenship, and Kansas residency.]
- Subsection (b): Requirements specific to TANF;
- Subsection (c): Requirements specific to the food assistance program;
- Subsection (d): Requirements specific to the child care subsidy;
- Subsection (e): Fraud investigations;
- Subsection (f): General requirements related to drug screenings and convictions;
- Subsection (g): General requirements related to assignment of support rights and limited power of attorney; and
- Subsection (h): Electronic benefits card.

The subsections with requirements specific to TANF, food assistance, and the child care subsidy (subsections (b) through (d)) would include a provision that eligibility for each of those programs would be subject to the corresponding requirements for drug screenings and convictions located in subsection (f). [*Note*: The drug screening and convictions provisions are continuing law.]

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Welfare Reform at the request of Representative Awerkamp.

House Committee on Welfare Reform

In the House Committee hearing, no **proponent** testimony was provided.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of Kansas Action for Children who stated reorganizing the statute is not helpful, and the Committee should consider how to change the statute to improve the lives of Kansans.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by representatives of the American Heart Association; Harvesters—The Community Food Network, the Kansas Food Bank, and Second Harvest Community Food Bank; Institute for Policy and Social Research at the University of Kansas; Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice; and United Community Services of Johnson County.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative of Kansas Interfaith Action who stated there was no reason to rearrange a statute that could be improved to make obtaining public assistance less difficult for those in need.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Department for Children and Families indicate enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Public assistance; statute reorganization; eligibility; cash assistance; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; TANF; food assistance program; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; SNAP; child care subsidy program