

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2581

As Amended by House Committee on Child
Welfare and Foster Care

Brief*

HB 2581, as amended, would amend law in the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children to allow, but not require, a request for child support to be contained in every child in need of care (CINC) petition. In addition, the bill would specify that when custody of the child is awarded to the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary), the court could order one or both parents to pay child support, but would not be required to do so.

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

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care at the request of the Secretary.

House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Children's Alliance of Kansas and Department for Children and Families (DCF). The proponents stated requiring child support in every CINC case is not cost-effective and may impede a family's ability to reintegrate in certain circumstances.

*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>

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Cornerstones of Care and Kansas Action for Children.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to reinsert language that would have been removed by the bill, as introduced, concerning the required contents of a CINC petition, modifying this language to make a request for child support permissive rather than mandatory.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, DCF estimates that enactment of the bill would result in reduced revenues of \$1.0 million for FY 2025 and \$2.0 million for FY 2026 for Child Support Services. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Child support payments; child in need of care; custody of child; Secretary for Children and Families; Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children