

**As Amended by House Committee**

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*Session of 2021*

**SENATE BILL No. 120**

By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

2-1

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1 AN ACT establishing the joint committee on child welfare system  
2 oversight; concerning the safety and well-being of children in the child  
3 welfare system in the state of Kansas; requiring an annual report to the  
4 legislature.

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6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the joint committee on child  
8 welfare system oversight. The joint committee shall review:

9 (1) The level of oversight and supervision by the Kansas department  
10 for children and families over each entity that contracts with the Kansas  
11 department for children and families to provide reintegration, foster care  
12 and adoption services;

13 (2) the duties, responsibilities and contributions of state agencies,  
14 nongovernmental entities and service providers that provide child welfare  
15 services in the state of Kansas;

16 (3) the level of access to child welfare services, including, but not  
17 limited to, health and mental health services and community-based  
18 services, in the state of Kansas;

19 (4) the number of children in the child welfare system and the factors  
20 that contribute to such number;

21 (5) the licensing standards for case managers working in the child  
22 welfare system; and

23 (6) any other topic the joint committee deems necessary or  
24 appropriate.

25 (b) The joint committee shall consist of ~~11~~ **13** members of the  
26 legislature appointed as follows:

27 (1) Two members of the house of representatives standing committee  
28 on children and seniors appointed by the speaker of the house of  
29 representatives;

30 (2) one member of the house of representatives standing committee  
31 on children and seniors appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
32 representatives;

33 (3) two members of the senate standing committee on public health  
34 and welfare appointed by the president of the senate;

35 (4) one member of the senate standing committee on public health  
36 and welfare appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

1 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the  
2 speaker of the house of representatives;

3 (6) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the  
4 minority leader of the house of representatives; ~~and~~

5 (7) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the  
6 senate;

7 **(8) one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of**  
8 **the senate; and**

9 **(9) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the**  
10 **majority leader of the house of representatives.**

11 (c) Members shall be appointed for terms coinciding with the  
12 legislative terms for which such members are elected or appointed. All  
13 members appointed to fill vacancies in the membership of the joint  
14 committee and all members appointed to succeed members appointed to  
15 membership on the joint committee shall be appointed in the manner  
16 provided for the original appointment of the member succeeded.

17 (d) (1) The first chairperson of the joint committee shall be appointed  
18 by the speaker of the house of representatives from among the members of  
19 the joint committee appointed by the speaker of the house of  
20 representatives. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the joint  
21 committee shall alternate annually between the members appointed by the  
22 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate.

23 (2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall designate a  
24 representative member to be the chairperson or the vice-chairperson of the  
25 joint committee as provided in this section. The president of the Senate  
26 shall designate a senator member to be the chairperson or the vice-  
27 chairperson of the joint committee as provided in this section. The ranking  
28 minority member shall be from the same chamber as the chairperson. The  
29 minority leader of the senate shall designate a senator member to be the  
30 ranking minority member of the joint committee as provided in this  
31 section. The minority leader of the house of representatives shall designate  
32 a representative member to be the ranking minority member of the joint  
33 committee as provided in this section.

34 (e) The members originally appointed as members of the joint  
35 committee shall meet upon the call of the chairperson on or before August  
36 1, 2021. Thereafter, the joint committee shall meet at least once in January  
37 and once in April when the legislature is in regular session and at least  
38 once for two consecutive days during each of the third and fourth calendar  
39 quarters, on the call of the chairperson, but not to exceed six meetings in a  
40 calendar year, except that additional meetings may be held on call of the  
41 chairperson when urgent circumstances exist that require such meetings.

42 (f) ~~Six~~ **Seven** members of the joint committee shall constitute a  
43 quorum.

1 (g) At the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, the  
2 joint committee shall submit to the president of the senate, the speaker of  
3 the house of representatives, the house standing committee on children and  
4 seniors and the senate standing committee on public health and welfare a  
5 written report that shall include recommended changes to current laws,  
6 rules and regulations and policies regarding the safety and well-being of  
7 children in the child welfare system in the state of Kansas.

8 (h) Members of the joint committee shall be paid compensation,  
9 amounts for travel expenses and subsistence expenses or allowances as  
10 provided in K.S.A. 75-3212, and amendments thereto, for attendance at  
11 any meeting of the joint committee or any subcommittee meeting  
12 authorized by the committee.

13 (i) In accordance with K.S.A. 46-1204, and amendments thereto, the  
14 legislative coordinating council may provide for such professional services  
15 as may be requested by the joint committee.

16 (j) The joint committee may make recommendations and introduce  
17 legislation as it deems necessary in performing its functions.

18 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
19 publication in the statute book.