

SESSION OF 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 485

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

SB 485 would amend eligibility requirements for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance to allow a single parent of a child between three months and one year of age to fulfill existing work participation requirements by engaging in in-home parenting skills training.

Current law requires that to be considered eligible for TANF benefits, an applicant must meet federal work participation requirements. A single parent of a child under the age of six meets that requirement if the parent is engaged in work or work activities for at least 20 hours per week in a primary work component. Primary work components that meet the federal definition include: full- or part-time employment, apprenticeship, work study, self-employment, job corps, subsidized employment, work experience sites, on-the-job training, supervised community service, vocational education, job search, and job readiness. The bill would expand work participation requirements to include in-home parenting skills training for a single parent of a child between three months and one year of age.

The bill would also make technical changes.

*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>

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (Senate Committee) at the request of Senator Pettey.

In the Senate Committee hearing, representatives of the Department for Children and Families (DCF) and the Children's Cabinet provided proponent testimony. Proponents stated the bill would provide greater support to single parents by ensuring the household's basic needs are met and providing the skills and knowledge to be effective parents. Additionally, proponents noted allowing single parents more time at home would help with an overloaded child care system, with child care for infants and toddlers costing 48.0 percent of income for single parents. Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by representatives of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, and United Methodist Health Ministry Fund.

No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill as introduced, DCF estimates an additional 172 families per month would be eligible to receive TANF cash assistance. It is estimated only 50.0 percent of these cases would participate in the training as an alternative, and it would take a full year to recognize the expected increase. DCF indicates enactment of the bill would increase expenditures for additional benefits by \$136,800 for FY 2021 and \$274,968 for FY 2022, all from federal TANF funds. Any fiscal effect associated with the enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.