

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Susan Concannon, Chairperson
House Committee on Children and Seniors
Statehouse, Room 149A-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Concannon:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2345 by Representative Ousley, et al.

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2345 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2345 would establish the Office of the Child Advocate for Children's Protection Services within the Legislative Branch. The Office would ensure that children and families receive coordination of child welfare services offered by the Department for Children and Families, the Department for Aging and Disability Services, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health and Environment, and the Office of Judicial Administration.

HB 2345 outlines the independent duties of the Child Advocate who would report directly to the Legislature. The Child Advocate would be appointed by the Governor and Legislature and be subject to Senate confirmation for a term of six years. The Child Advocate would serve under the direction of the Legislature. The Child Advocate could employ persons as necessary to carry out the duties of the Office of the Child Advocate. Compensation of each employee would be subject to approval of the Legislative Coordinating Council.

According to Legislative Administrative Services, enactment of HB 2345 would have a fiscal effect on the Legislature. The agency estimates the costs for the Office of the Child Advocate would total \$848,457 from the State General Fund. The total amount would include salary and fringe benefit expenditures of \$665,707 and 9.00 FTE positions including the Child Advocate, a Deputy Child Advocate, three Research Analysts, four Administrative Assistants. The total amount would also include other operating costs of \$79,750 for contractual services, \$8,000 for commodities, and \$95,000 for capital outlay.

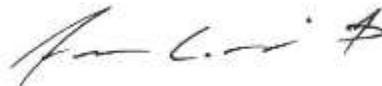
The Department for Children and Families estimates that the bill would increase expenditures for the agency by \$187,178 from all funding sources, including \$141,806 from the State General Fund for FY 2022. The expenditures would include salary and fringe benefit costs of \$169,193 for 3.00 Program Consultant FTE positions and other operating expenditures of \$17,985. DCF would be responsible for coordinating Office of the Child Advocate responses, performance improvement efforts, and tracking.

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services indicates that the bill would increase salary and fringe benefit expenditures and operating costs by \$93,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2022. The additional expenditures would be for 1.00 FTE position to research, track down, and respond to complaint inquiries.

The Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) indicates the enactment of the HB 2345 would require additional resources to work with the Office of the Child Advocate and coordinate requests for reports and records requests. The bill would also require additional time by district court clerks when records are requested. It is unknown how often records would be requested, but it is estimated that at least 1.00 FTE District Court Clerk Specialist position would be needed to manage statewide coordination with the Office of the Child Advocate. OJA estimates that the cost for salary and fringe benefits would be \$78,234 for FY 2022 and \$84,410 for FY 2023 from the State General Fund.

The Kansas Department of Health Environment and the Department for Corrections indicate that the bill would have no fiscal effect on either department. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2345 is not reflected in *The FY 2022 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Kim Holter, Children & Families
Connie Hubbell, Aging & Disability Services
Randy Bowman, Corrections
Dan Thimmesch, Health & Environment
Debbie Thomas, Judiciary
Karen Clowers, Legislative Services