

SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2194

As Recommended by House Committee on
Child Welfare and Foster Care

Brief*

HB 2194 would enact the Representative Gail Finney Memorial Foster Care Bill of Rights within the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children (Code) and would enumerate the rights of children in need of care in the child welfare system and the rights of foster parents.

Rights of Children in Need of Care

The bill would provide that, consistent with the policy of the State expressed in the Code to provide proper care and protection of a child in need of care in the child welfare system, such child would have certain rights, as described by the bill, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Rights of Foster Parents

The bill would provide that, consistent with the policy of the State expressed in the Code to ensure active participation of foster parents as in integral, vital, indispensable, and vital role in the State's efforts to care for children in the custody of the Secretary for Children and Families, such foster parents shall have certain rights, as described by the bill, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

*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 House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care at the request of Representative Concannon.

House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

In the House Committee hearing on January 30, 2023, representatives of the Children's Alliance of Kansas and FosterAdopt Connect and Representative Carlin testified as **proponents** of the bill. Proponents stated the need for both foster youth and foster parents to have a clear statement of rights in order to feel empowered in navigating the child welfare system and expressed gratitude that the bill's provisions would be a memorial to the late Representative Finney, who worked to pass similar legislation in years prior.

Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by Representative Clayton, a case manager, the Child Advocate, and representatives of the Center for the Rights of Abused Children, Department for Children and Families, Kansas Appleseed, and TFI Family Services. [Note: Some of the testimony submitted references HB 2112, a bill containing similar provisions introduced by the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight on January 20, 2023.]

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

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

Foster care; foster parent; foster youth; foster care bill of rights