

March 3, 2011

The Honorable Tim Owens, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 559-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Owens:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 94 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 94 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Under current law, when a temporary custody hearing for a child or minor is set by the courts, a notice of the hearing is given to all interested parties. Under SB 94, a reasonable effort must also be made to notify any known close relative or any person who has a close emotional tie with the child or minor. The judge at the time of the hearing would order the parent or guardian to give the names and any contact information of family members or person who has close ties to the child to the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services. The parent or guardian would also be ordered to state if the parent, guardian, or other family member has American Indian affiliation.

The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services states that it currently sends letters within 30 days of receiving custody of a minor to each relative or unrelated person with whom the child has close emotional ties who has been identified by the parents. The Department would continue this policy. Under SB 94, a court order could increase the number of letters sent; however, the agency estimates this increase to be negligible and could be absorbed within the agency's existing budget. The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that passage of SB 94 could have a negligible fiscal effect on the agency by adding duties; however, any additional expenditures would be absorbed within the agency's current budget.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Mary Rinehart, Judiciary
Dan Lewien, SRS