

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2205

As Amended by House Committee on Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2205 would amend the law concerning hearings on an adoption petition to provide that a hearing could be fixed for any time within 60 days from the date the petition is filed and to remove language preventing the hearing from being scheduled within 30 days from the date the petition is filed. The bill also would provide an exception to notice requirements in independent and stepparent adoptions when the party entitled to notice waives the right.

Background

In the House Committee on Judiciary, Representative Finch and representatives of the Kansas Bar Association and KVC Behavioral HealthCare offered testimony in support of the bill. A representative of the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) offered neutral testimony and a proposed amendment, stating the amendment would allow DCF to support the bill. The House Committee adopted a variation of the DCF amendment, which clarifies provisions concerning waiver of notice.

The Division of the Budget's fiscal note for the bill, as introduced, indicates passage of the bill could place DCF out of compliance with federal notice requirements that could result in the loss of \$40,261,395 in FY 2014, \$39,475,157 in FY 2015, and \$39,868,276 in FY 2016. According to DCF testimony, the House Committee amendment removes this risk.

*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>