

March 14, 2019

The Honorable John Barker, Chairperson
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Statehouse, Room 285-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Barker:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2392 by House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2392 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

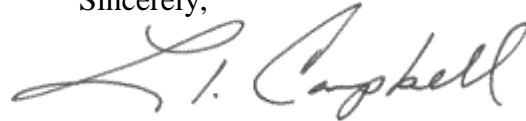
Current law defines mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect to include medical professionals, mental health professionals, teachers and other school employees, licensed child care providers, other personnel (such as firefighters, emergency medical personnel, law enforcement, court services officers, and court-appointed case managers) and permissive reporters. HB 2392 would add adults living in the home with the child as mandatory reporters. To be considered a mandatory reporter, the adult must have resided in the home for at least parts of three consecutive days, or 10 nonconsecutive days, within a 30-day period.

Current law makes the failure of a mandatory reporter to report child abuse or neglect a class B misdemeanor. HB 2392 would excuse the new class of mandatory reporters (adults living in the home with a child) from failing to report if either the adult or the child was subject to abuse or neglect by the person being reported. The bill would also make the new class of mandatory reporters immune from criminal charges if they themselves were not involved in child abuse or neglect or the death of a child. The bill would also require the Department for Children and Families (DCF) and law enforcement to make visual observation of the alleged child victim.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2019 SGF	FY 2019 All Funds	FY 2020 SGF	FY 2020 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$62,415	\$62,415
FTE Pos.	--	--	1.00	1.00

The DCF Protection Report Center currently receives approximately 5,486 child abuse and neglect reports from parents and other adults in the household each year. HB 2392 would make adults in the child's home mandatory reporters, they would be subject to a misdemeanor for failing to report. Therefore, the bill is estimated to increase reports by adults in the household by up to 15.0 percent, resulting in 823 additional reports received in FY 2018. The additional reports represent a 1.1 percent increase over the 72,683 child protection intake reports. Currently, 92.00 Investigator FTE positions assess reports. A 1.1 percent increase in reports translates into 1.00 additional Investigator FTE position, at a cost of \$62,415 from the State General Fund. The Protection Report Center assesses child abuse and neglect reports and approximately 60.0 percent of the reports are assigned to child investigative staff in DCF regions. While the increase in assigned reports would increase the workload for regional staff, the increase could be absorbed within the current budget. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2392 is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. L. Campbell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Larry L. Campbell
Division of the Budget

cc: Jackie Aubert, Children & Families