

SESSION OF 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2699

As Recommended by House Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2699 would amend the statute in the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children governing authorized dispositions by the court to allow the court to order supervision of a case by a court services officer (CSO) when a child is in the custody of the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary).

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Judiciary at the request of Representative Humphries. In the House Committee hearing, a district court judge from the 18th Judicial District, speaking in his individual capacity, and two attorneys testified in support of the bill, stating CSOs in Sedgwick County have assisted with child in need of care (CINC) cases since the 1970s and help efficiently manage the high volume of such cases. An attorney and a representative of the Office of the District Attorney for the 18th Judicial District submitted written-only proponent testimony.

A representative of the Judicial Branch gave neutral testimony, stating a recent Kansas Supreme Court workgroup reviewed CSO caseloads and recommended CSOs not continue providing ten services currently performed in some areas of the state, including CSO supervision of CINC cases when a child is in the custody of the Secretary. The Judicial Branch representative noted this was just a recommendation,

*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>

and stated the Supreme Court understands the significant impact the recommendation would have on judicial districts that utilize CSOs in this way.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, enactment of the bill could increase time spent by CSOs for case supervision in CINC cases. The Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) indicates CSOs in four judicial districts routinely perform this service, and occasionally do so in four other districts. Codifying this service could result in more judges assigning CSOs to supervise these cases. OJA states it is not possible to estimate the number of additional court cases that would arise or how complex or time-consuming they would be, so a fiscal effect on expenditures cannot be determined. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.