

February 11, 2015

The Honorable John Barker, Chairperson
House Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 149-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Barker:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2113 by House Committee on Judiciary

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2113 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2113 would amend the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children by allowing court-appointed special advocates to be paid a reasonable fee for services. A docket fee would be assessed against the parent of the child and a court would be permitted to assess or waive this fee at any stage of a proceeding. The fee would be credited to the newly created Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program Fund and expenditures from the fund would be approved by the Secretary of the Department for Children and Families.

The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that HB 2113 would increase time spent by judges determining whether a fee should be assessed or waived and what a "reasonable fee" should be; time spent by clerks of the district court collecting, receipting and accounting for the fee; and time spent by computer programming staff to implement the changes that would be required. However, until the courts have had an opportunity to operate with the provisions of HB 2113 in place, an accurate estimate of the fiscal effect on expenditures by the Judicial Branch cannot be given. Since the bill limits expenditures from the Court-Appointed Special Advocate Program Fund to appropriated amounts, the Department for Children and Families indicates it may be insufficient to cover expenses because the number of filings can fluctuate. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2113 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Mary Rinehart, Judiciary