

February 23, 2015

The Honorable Gregory Smith, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice  
Statehouse, Room 441-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Smith:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 129 by Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 129 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 129 would require mandated reporters of suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to make the report to law enforcement instead of the Department for Children and Families (DCF). Law enforcement would then be required to inform DCF of the report that was received and any investigation that was initiated. These reports could be made orally or, by request of the Secretary of DCF, in writing. The bill would make an exception for issues occurring in an institution operated by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services or the Secretary of Corrections. Reports of suspected abuse or neglect occurring in one of these institutions would be made directly to the Attorney General.

SB 129 would require mandated reporters of suspected cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of adults to make the report to both law enforcement and DCF.

| Estimated State Fiscal Effect |                |                      |                |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
|                               | FY 2015<br>SGF | FY 2015<br>All Funds | FY 2016<br>SGF | FY 2016<br>All Funds |
| Revenue                       | --             | --                   | --             | --                   |
| Expenditure                   | --             | --                   | \$430,208      | \$430,208            |
| FTE Pos.                      | --             | --                   | --             | 8.00                 |

The League of Kansas Municipalities states that SB 129 would require local law enforcement to investigate and report on all child and adult abuse or neglect cases, many of which are currently being handled by DCF. The League estimates that there are over 50,000

cases per year which would substantially increase law enforcement caseloads, particularly in metropolitan areas. Although the fiscal effect of the bill is believed to be significant, an estimate cannot be made.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) states that the Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Unit received 1,863 reports of substantiated abuse, neglect or exploitation last year. The OAG believes that passage of SB 129 would result in an increase in substantiated reports and that an additional 1.00 FTE administrative position would be required to for the extra workload. The OAG estimates additional expenditures of \$55,138 would be required from the State General Fund in FY 2016, including \$49,234 for salary and benefit costs and \$5,904 for other operating expenditures.

DCF states that SB 129 would increase workload at the Protection Report Center (PRC) that currently takes these reports. The agency believes that many mandated reporters would continue to contact the PRC first. The PRC staff would then have to refer the reporter to law enforcement. Law enforcement would then contact the PRC after the report is received. DCF assumes that taking the report from law enforcement would increase processing time because law enforcement would also have to report regarding any investigation that was initiated. DCF estimates the need for an additional 7.00 FTE positions: 1.00 Social Work Supervisor; 2.00 Social Worker Specialists; and 4.00 Administrative Specialists. Salary and benefit costs for these new positions are estimated at \$347,560 from the State General Fund in FY 2016. DCF also estimates other operating expenditures of \$27,510 in FY 2016 which makes a total fiscal effect of \$375,070. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 129 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,  
Director of the Budget

cc: Jackie Aubert, Children & Families  
Willie Prescott, Attorney General's Office  
Melissa Wangemann, Association of Counties  
Larry Baer, League of Municipalities  
Shelia Sawyer-Tyler, KBI