

March 19, 2019

The Honorable Susan Concannon
Statehouse, Room 149A-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Concannon:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 162, as Amended

In accordance with your request, the following fiscal note concerning SB 162, as amended, is respectfully submitted.

SB 162, as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole, would require foster care management contractors to provide notification to the Department for Children and Families (DCF) of any child who is reported missing within a time-period established by DCF not to exceed 24 hours of any time the contractor knows or has reason to know a child assigned to the contractor has gone missing or spent any overnight period in a facility under the control of the contractor. The bill further requires DCF, after 24 hours of receipt of such notice, to notify each member of the Legislature and the official newspaper of the county where the child went missing or within 48 hours in a newspaper of general circulation to such county of such missing child's age and sex. The bill would also require DCF to assess a fine against a contractor of \$500 per day for each day that a foster care case management contractor does not notify DCF of a missing child.

DCF indicates that much of this monitoring is already being done. Therefore SB 162, as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole, would have no effect on agency expenditures. The agency indicates that it is unable to determine the number of fines that would be imposed on contractors for not notifying DCF of a missing child. However, imposing significant fines against the contractors could jeopardize their financial position which, in turn, could impact quality of services provided to DCF clients or even create liquidity issues for them. DCF states that this could result in higher future rates or bail-outs of the contractors to prevent any resulting adverse effect to the clients. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 162 is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.

As amended by the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee of the Whole, SB 162 would have no immediate fiscal effect.

Sincerely,



Larry L. Campbell
Director of the Budget