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MEMORANDUM

To: House of Representatives Committee on Children and Seniors
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 16, 2022
Subject: Bill Brief on House Bill 2700

House Bill 2700 amends K.S.A. 38-2270, the statute that authorizes the court to enter an order granting custody of a child for adoption, when parental rights are terminated, to a person, the secretary for the Kansas department for children and families or a corporation. The order grants the secretary authority to "give consent for the legal adoption of the which shall be the only consent required to authorize the entry of an order or decree of adoption."

Subsection (c) requires that the department make an individualized assessment before giving consent to an adoption, as granted to the person, secretary or corporation by the court in subsection (a)(1). The assessment shall include:

- (1) The child's current relationships with caregivers, relatives, siblings and others;
- (2) whether a family can best meet the child's medical, physical, emotional, cultural and other specific needs; and
- (3) the child's need to maintain and strengthen current healthy attachments.

Once the assessment is completed, the person, secretary or corporation shall provide the assessment to the court. Subsection (b) requires that the court make the finding that the person, secretary or corporation has conducted the assessment as required.