

February 16, 2022

The Honorable Susan Concannon, Chairperson
House Committee on Children and Seniors
Statehouse, Room 152-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Concannon:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2700 by House Committee on Children and Seniors

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2700 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2700 would add the requirement that the Department for Children and Families (DCF) conduct an individualized assessment of a child before a court could order the child into the custody of DCF or an adoption agency for adoption proceedings. Courts would be required to make the specific finding that the person, secretary, or corporation has conducted an individualized assessment of the child's needs and attachments and provide the court with a report of the assessment. The assessment would 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.

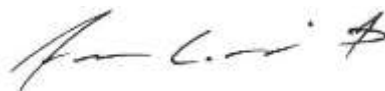
The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that HB 2700 would not have a significant fiscal effect on expenditures of the Judicial Branch. The bill could create more work for judges and possibly increase the length of Child in Need of Care and adoption cases because it requires multiple findings, but the Office does not anticipate this to be significant. Until the courts have had an opportunity to operate under the provisions of the bill, an accurate estimate of the fiscal effect on expenditures cannot be given.

DCF currently conducts Best Interest Staffing (BIS) assessments which include assessments on medical, physical, emotional, and cultural needs, as well as grief, loss, trauma,

attachment, and bonding. If there is only one adoptive resource, the BIS can be waived. This occurs in approximately 50.0 percent of DCF adoptions.

DCF assumes all components of the assessment required in the bill are addressed in current BIS assessments. DCF estimates that the bill would result in 429 additional assessments at a cost of \$686,400 from all funding sources, including \$609,019 from the State General Fund for Case Manager costs. The impact is based on an estimate of the additional cases that meet conditions to have a BIS assessment. The BIS assessments are completed by the Child Welfare Case Management Providers in the DCF Foster Care budget. The Foster Care budget is part of the Consensus Caseload process so any increase in costs would be addressed in that process. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2700 is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Vicki Jacobsen, Judiciary
Kim Holter, Children & Families