

As Amended by Senate Committee

{As Amended by House Committee of the Whole}

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Session of 2021

HOUSE BILL No. 2115

By Committee on Children and Seniors

1-22

1 AN ACT concerning the legislature; relating to children and minors; the
2 safety and well-being of children in the child welfare system in the
3 state of Kansas; establishing the joint committee on child welfare
4 system oversight; prescribing duties and membership thereof; requiring
5 an annual report to the legislature.
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the joint committee on child
9 welfare system oversight. The joint committee shall review:

10 (1) Data on child maltreatment and demographic trends impacting the
11 child welfare system;

12 (2) the duties, responsibilities and contributions of the Kansas
13 department for children and families, the Kansas department for aging and
14 disability services, the department of health and environment, the
15 department of corrections, law enforcement and the judicial branch that
16 comprise and impact the child welfare system;

17 (3) the programs, services and benefits offered directly or through
18 grants or contracts by the Kansas department for children and families, the
19 Kansas department for aging and disability services, the department of
20 health and environment and the judicial branch that impact children and
21 families at risk of becoming involved or who are involved in the child
22 welfare system, including:

23 (A) Child maltreatment prevention;

24 (B) investigations of child maltreatment;

25 (C) in-home family services, including services offered through
26 federal prevention and family preservation funding; and

27 (D) foster care, reintegration and adoption services;

28 (4) trends, performance outcomes, activities and improvement plans
29 related to the federal child and family services reviews;

30 (5) reports from child welfare-related groups, including, but not
31 limited to, citizen review panels, the Kansas supreme court permanency
32 planning task force, the Kansas children's cabinet and any interim study

- 1 committees or work groups authorized by the Kansas legislature;
- 2 (6) implementation of the 2019 child welfare system task force report
3 recommendations, including top-tier recommendations related to the child
4 welfare workforce, data technology, access to behavioral healthcare for
5 high-risk youth and implementation of the federal family first prevention
6 services act;
- 7 (7) reports on concerns received from the Kansas department for
8 children and families child welfare ombudsman or customer service
9 department or similar office;
- 10 (8) opportunities for Kansas to strengthen the child welfare system
11 through evidence-based interventions and services for children and
12 families; and
- 13 (9) any other topic the joint committee deems appropriate.
- 14 (b) The joint committee shall consist of ~~H13~~ members of the
15 legislature appointed as follows:
- 16 (1) Two members of the house of representatives standing committee
17 on children and seniors appointed by the speaker of the house of
18 representatives;
- 19 (2) one member of the house of representatives standing committee
20 on children and seniors appointed by the minority leader of the house of
21 representatives;
- 22 (3) two members ~~of~~ the senate standing committee on public health
23 and welfare appointed by the president of the senate;
- 24 (4) one member of the senate standing committee on public health
25 and welfare appointed by the minority leader of the senate;
- 26 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
27 speaker of the house of representatives;
- 28 (6) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
29 minority leader of the house of representatives;
- 30 (7) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the
31 senate;
- 32 **(8) one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of**
33 **the senate; and**
- 34 **(9) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the**
35 **majority leader of the house of representatives.**
- 36 (c) Members shall be appointed for terms coinciding with the
37 legislative terms for which such members are elected or appointed. All
38 members appointed to fill vacancies in the membership of the joint
39 committee and all members appointed to succeed members appointed to
40 the membership on the joint committee shall be appointed in the manner
41 provided for the original appointment of the member succeeded.
- 42 (d) (1) The first chairperson of the joint committee shall be appointed
43 by the speaker of the house of representatives from among the members of

1 the joint committee appointed by the speaker of the house of
2 representatives, within 30 days of the effective date of this section. The
3 chairperson and vice-chairperson of the joint committee shall alternate
4 annually between the members appointed by the speaker of the house or
5 representatives and the president of the senate.

6 (2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall designate a
7 representative member to be the chairperson or the vice-chairperson of the
8 joint committee as provided in this section. The president of the senate
9 shall designate a senator member to be the chairperson or the vice-
10 chairperson of the joint committee as provided in this section. The ranking
11 minority member shall be from the same chamber as the chairperson. The
12 minority leader of the senate shall designate a senator member to the the
13 ranking minority member of the joint committee as provided in this
14 section. The minority leader of the house of representatives shall designate
15 a representative member to be the ranking minority member of the joint
16 committee as provided in this section.

17 (e) The members originally appointed as members of the joint
18 committee shall meet upon the call of the chairperson on or after January
19 1, 2021. Thereafter, the joint committee shall meet at least once ~~in January~~
20 ~~and once in April~~ **during each of the first and second calendar quarters**
21 when the legislature is in regular session and at least once during each of
22 the third and fourth calendar quarters, on the call of the chairperson, but
23 not to exceed six meetings in a calendar year.

24 (f) ~~Six~~**Seven** members of the joint committee shall constitute a
25 quorum.

26 (g) At the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, the
27 joint committee shall submit to the president of the senate, the speaker of
28 the house of representatives, the house standing committee on children and
29 seniors and the senate standing committee on public health and welfare a
30 written report that shall include recommended changes to current laws,
31 rules and regulations and policies regarding the safety and well-being of
32 children in the child welfare system in the state of Kansas.

33 (h) Members of the joint committee shall be paid compensation,
34 amounts for travel expenses and subsistence expenses or allowances as
35 provided in K.S.A. 75-3212, and amendments thereto, for attendance at
36 any meeting of the joint committee or any subcommittee meeting
37 authorized by the committee.

38 (i) In accordance with K.S.A. 46-1204, and amendments thereto, the
39 legislative coordinating council may provide for such professional services
40 as may be requested by the joint committee.

41 (j) The joint committee may make recommendations and introduce
42 legislation as it deems necessary in performing its functions.

43 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its

- 1 publication in the ~~Kansas register~~ *statute book*.