

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.

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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
33 committees or work groups authorized by the Kansas legislature;

34 (6) implementation of the 2019 child welfare system task force report
35 recommendations, including top-tier recommendations related to the child
36 welfare workforce, data technology, access to behavioral healthcare for

1 high-risk youth and implementation of the federal family first prevention
2 services act;

3 (7) reports on concerns received from the Kansas department for
4 children and families child welfare ombudsman or customer service
5 department or similar office;

6 (8) opportunities for Kansas to strengthen the child welfare system
7 through evidence-based interventions and services for children and
8 families; and

9 (9) any other topic the joint committee deems appropriate.

10 (b) The joint committee shall consist of 11 members of the legislature
11 appointed as follows:

12 (1) Two members of the house of representatives standing committee
13 on children and seniors appointed by the speaker of the house of
14 representatives;

15 (2) one member of the house of representatives standing committee
16 on children and seniors appointed by the minority leader of the house of
17 representatives;

18 (3) two members the senate standing committee on public health and
19 welfare appointed by the president of the senate;

20 (4) one member of the senate standing committee on public health
21 and welfare appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

22 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
23 speaker of the house of representatives;

24 (6) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
25 minority leader of the house of representatives;

26 (7) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the
27 senate.

28 (c) Members shall be appointed for terms coinciding with the
29 legislative terms for which such members are elected or appointed. All
30 members appointed to fill vacancies in the membership of the joint
31 committee and all members appointed to succeed members appointed to
32 the membership on the joint committee shall be appointed in the manner
33 provided for the original appointment of the member succeeded.

34 (d) (1) The first chairperson of the joint committee shall be appointed
35 by the speaker of the house of representatives from among the members of
36 the joint committee appointed by the speaker of the house of
37 representatives, within 30 days of the effective date of this section. The
38 chairperson and vice-chairperson of the joint committee shall alternate
39 annually between the members appointed by the speaker of the house or
40 representatives and the president of the senate.

41 (2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall designate a
42 representative member to be the chairperson or the vice-chairperson of the
43 joint committee as provided in this section. The president of the senate

1 shall designate a senator member to be the chairperson or the vice-
2 chairperson of the joint committee as provided in this section. The ranking
3 minority member shall be from the same chamber as the chairperson. The
4 minority leader of the senate shall designate a senator member to the the
5 ranking minority member of the joint committee as provided in this
6 section. The minority leader of the house of representatives shall designate
7 a representative member to be the ranking minority member of the joint
8 committee as provided in this section.

9 (e) The members originally appointed as members of the joint
10 committee shall meet upon the call of the chairperson on or after January
11 1, 2021. Thereafter, the joint committee shall meet at least once in January
12 and once in April when the legislature is in regular session and at least
13 once during each of the third and fourth calendar quarters, on the call of
14 the chairperson, but not to exceed six meetings in a calendar year.

15 (f) Six members of the joint committee shall constitute a quorum.

16 (g) At the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, the
17 joint committee shall submit to the president of the senate, the speaker of
18 the house of representatives, the house standing committee on children and
19 seniors and the senate standing committee on public health and welfare a
20 written report that shall include recommended changes to current laws,
21 rules and regulations and policies regarding the safety and well-being of
22 children in the child welfare system in the state of Kansas.

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

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

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

33 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
34 publication in the Kansas register.