

HOUSE BILL No. 2125

AN ACT concerning the support and care of children; relating to children in need of care; concerning rights of certain parties to be present at certain proceedings.

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

Section 1. (a) Notwithstanding K.S.A. 38-1552, and amendments thereto and any other provision of law to the contrary, and within the limits of appropriations therefor, a pilot project shall be established by the office of judicial administration in one rural and one urban judicial district in which such judicial district shall implement proceedings under the Kansas code for care of children in which the court may exclude from any hearing all persons except the guardian *ad litem*, interested parties and their attorneys, officers of the court, the witness testifying, the child's foster parents and up to two people, both of whom have participated in a parent advocate orientation program approved by the judicial administrator, and designated by the parent of the child. Such parent advocate orientation program shall include but not be limited to information concerning the confidentiality of the proceedings; the child and parent's right to counsel; the definitions and jurisdiction pursuant to the Kansas code for care of children; the types and purposes of the hearings; options for informal supervision and dispositions; placement options; the parent's obligation to financially support the child while the child is in the state's custody; obligations of the secretary of social and rehabilitation services; obligations of entities that contract with the department of social and rehabilitation services for family preservation, foster care and adoption; the termination of parental rights; the procedures for appeals; and the basic rules regarding court procedure. Upon agreement of all interested parties, the court shall allow other persons to attend the proceedings, unless the court finds the presence of the persons would be disruptive to the proceedings. The court shall not remove the parent's designee or designees from any proceeding unless such designee becomes disruptive in such proceeding.

(b) Upon completion of the pilot project, the office of judicial administration shall make a report to the legislature.

(c) The provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2005.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and passed that body

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HOUSE concurred in  
SENATE amendments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Speaker of the House.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Clerk of the House.*

Passed the SENATE  
as amended \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*President of the Senate.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Governor.*