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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 11, 2024
Subject: Bill Brief for HB 2628

House Bill 2628 requires the secretary for children and families to release certain information related to a child fatality when criminal charges are filed alleging that a person caused such fatality.

Section 1 amends K.S.A. 38-2212, the statute in the revised Kansas code for care of children that governs access to certain information related to children alleged or adjudicated to be in need of care. Current law in subsection (g)(3) provides that “in the event that child abuse or neglect results in a child fatality, the secretary shall release the following information in response to an open records request made pursuant to the Kansas open records act, within seven business days of receipt of such request, as allowed by applicable law:

- (A) Age and sex of the child;
- (B) date of the fatality;
- (C) a summary of any previous reports of abuse or neglect received by the secretary involving the child, along with the findings of such reports; and
- (D) any department recommended services provided to the child.”

The bill amends subsection (g)(3) to also authorize such information to be released by the secretary pursuant to a request in the event that “criminal charges are filed with a court alleging that a person caused a child fatality.”

The bill would take effect from and after publication in the statute book, July 1, 2024.