

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Gossage and the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: March 7, 2024

Subject: **HB 2629: Requiring the secretary for health and environment to provide a death certificate of a child to the state child death review board, increasing the number of board members, allowing for compensation and providing for the disclosure of certain records to certain persons for securing grants.**

House Bill 2629 amends multiple statutes related to the state child death review board, review of child deaths, records, and coroner and law enforcement protocols.

Section 1 amends K.S.A. 22a-242, that statute that governs procedures for a child death. The bill eliminates the requirement that the coroner sign a nonsuspicious child death form after an investigation and autopsy. The coroner would no longer notify the board within 30 days of the investigation and autopsy. The coroner is currently required to attempt to notify any parent or legal guardian of the child prior to an autopsy and the bill would require that such notice shall contain information about the autopsy and instructions on how to obtain a copy of the findings and results of the autopsy. A new subsection would require the secretary for health and environment to provide a copy of a child's death certificate to the state child death review board.

Section 2 amends K.S.A. 22a-243, the statute that establishes the state child death review board. The board membership would be increased to include one more member appointed by the state board of healing arts and that that person be a physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery specializing in pediatrics. A new subsection states the charge of the board, to review all child deaths of Kansas residents under 18 or non-residents under 18 whose death occurred in Kansas. The section would allow for compensation, subsistence allowances, mileage, and expenses for members subject to the approval of the chairperson and the attorney general. The bill would allow disclosure of board records to "any person or entity, if the information and records being disclosed are statistics or conclusions of the state review board and provided for the purpose of procuring and maintaining financial grants."

Section 3 amends K.S.A. 22a-244 directing the state board to maintain records for at least 15 years after the date a case investigated by the board is closed. The section would no longer require that the board transmit a copy of the board's written report to the county or district attorney of the county or district where the child was a resident or where the death occurred.

KANSAS OFFICE *of*
REVISOR *of* STATUTES
LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS

In committee, the House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care amended the bill to allow for the disclosure of the board's conclusions and statistics to the Governor and to the Legislature to supplement the board's annual report to those parties.

On February 22, 2024, House Bill 2629 passed the House Committee of the Whole with a vote of 119 to 1.

If enacted, House Bill 2629 would become effective on July 1.