

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER:

The Committee on **Child Welfare and Foster Care** recommends **HB 2194** be amended on page 1, in line 7, before "Section" by inserting "New";

On page 2, in line 26, after the semicolon by inserting:

"(18) report a violation of this section without fear of punishment, interference, coercion or retaliation;"

Also on page 2, in line 38, after "parents" by inserting "and kinship caregivers"; in line 40, after "parents" by inserting "and kinship caregivers";

On page 3, in line 2, by striking all after "discriminated"; in line 3, by striking all before "in"; in line 4, after "with" by inserting "the Kansas act against discrimination,"; in line 6, after "parents" by inserting "and kinship caregivers"; in line 16, by striking "and" and inserting a comma; in line 17, after "parents" by inserting "and kinship caregivers"; in line 19, after "parents" by inserting "and kinship caregivers"; in line 29, after "family" by inserting ", the kinship care placement"; in line 36, after "parents" by inserting "and kinship caregivers"; in line 37, after "parents" by inserting "and kinship caregivers";

On page 4, in line 3, after "parents" by inserting "and kinship caregivers"; in line 22, after "parents" by inserting "or kinship caregivers"; in line 24, after "parents" by inserting "and kinship caregivers"; in line 38, after "(d)" by inserting "(1) The secretary shall provide written and oral notification to foster youth, foster parents and kinship caregivers of the rights created under this section and information for filing complaints.

(2) The secretary shall make a list of the rights created under this section digitally

available on the secretary's website.

(3) Each child welfare management provider shall make available physical and digital copies of a list of the rights created under this section.

(e) This section shall not be construed to create a private right of action independent of the revised Kansas code for care of children, but may be enforced through equitable relief as a part of the corresponding case under the revised Kansas code for care of children.

(f)";

And by redesignating subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs and clauses accordingly;

Also on page 4, following line 39, by inserting:

"Sec. 2. K.S.A. 38-2202 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-2202. As used in the revised Kansas code for care of children, unless the context otherwise indicates:

(a) "Abandon" or "abandonment" means to forsake, desert or, without making appropriate provision for substitute care, cease providing care for the child.

(b) "Adult correction facility" means any public or private facility, secure or nonsecure, that is used for the lawful custody of accused or convicted adult criminal offenders.

(c) "Aggravated circumstances" means the abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, sexual abuse or chronic, life threatening neglect of a child.

(d) "Child in need of care" means a person less than 18 years of age at the time of filing of the petition or issuance of an ex parte protective custody order pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2242, and amendments thereto, who:

(1) Is without adequate parental care, control or subsistence and the condition is not due solely to the lack of financial means of the child's parents or other custodian;

(2) is without the care or control necessary for the child's physical, mental or emotional health;

(3) has been physically, mentally or emotionally abused or neglected or sexually

abused;

(4) has been placed for care or adoption in violation of law;

(5) has been abandoned or does not have a known living parent;

(6) is not attending school as required by K.S.A. 72-3421 or 72-3120, and amendments thereto;

(7) except in the case of a violation of K.S.A. 41-727, K.S.A. 74-8810(j), K.S.A. 79-3321(m) or (n), or K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-6301(a)(14), and amendments thereto, or, except as provided in paragraph (12), does an act which, when committed by a person under 18 years of age, is prohibited by state law, city ordinance or county resolution, but which is not prohibited when done by an adult;

(8) while less than 10 years of age, commits any act that if done by an adult would constitute the commission of a felony or misdemeanor as defined by K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-5102, and amendments thereto;

(9) is willfully and voluntarily absent from the child's home without the consent of the child's parent or other custodian;

(10) is willfully and voluntarily absent at least a second time from a court ordered or designated placement, or a placement pursuant to court order, if the absence is without the consent of the person with whom the child is placed or, if the child is placed in a facility, without the consent of the person in charge of such facility or such person's designee;

(11) has been residing in the same residence with a sibling or another person under 18 years of age, who has been physically, mentally or emotionally abused or neglected, or sexually abused;

(12) while less than 10 years of age commits the offense defined in K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-6301(a)(14), and amendments thereto;

(13) has had a permanent custodian appointed and the permanent custodian is no longer

able or willing to serve; or

(14) has been subjected to an act that would constitute human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking, as defined by K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-5426, and amendments thereto, or commercial sexual exploitation of a child, as defined by K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-6422, and amendments thereto, or has committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute selling sexual relations, as defined by K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-6419, and amendments thereto.

(e) "Citizen review board" is a group of community volunteers appointed by the court and whose duties are prescribed by K.S.A. 38-2207 and 38-2208, and amendments thereto.

(f) "Civil custody case" includes any case filed under chapter 23 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, the Kansas family law code, article 11 of chapter 38 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, determination of parentage, article 21 of chapter 59 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, adoption and relinquishment act, or article 30 of chapter 59 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, guardians and conservators.

(g) "Court-appointed special advocate" means a responsible adult other than an attorney guardian ad litem who is appointed by the court to represent the best interests of a child, as provided in K.S.A. 38-2206, and amendments thereto, in a proceeding pursuant to this code.

(h) "Custody" whether temporary, protective or legal, means the status created by court order or statute that vests in a custodian, whether an individual or an agency, the right to physical possession of the child and the right to determine placement of the child, subject to restrictions placed by the court.

(i) "Extended out of home placement" means a child has been in the custody of the secretary and placed with neither parent for 15 of the most recent 22 months beginning 60 days after the date at which a child in the custody of the secretary was removed from the child's home.

(j) "Educational institution" means all schools at the elementary and secondary levels.

(k) "Educator" means any administrator, teacher or other professional or paraprofessional employee of an educational institution who has exposure to a pupil specified in K.S.A. 72-6143(a), and amendments thereto.

(l) "Harm" means physical or psychological injury or damage.

(m) "Interested party" means the grandparent of the child, a person with whom the child has been living for a significant period of time when the child in need of care petition is filed, and any person made an interested party by the court pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2241, and amendments thereto, or Indian tribe seeking to intervene that is not a party.

(n) "Jail" means:

(1) An adult jail or lockup; or

(2) a facility in the same building or on the same grounds as an adult jail or lockup, unless the facility meets all applicable standards and licensure requirements under law and there is: (A) Total separation of the juvenile and adult facility spatial areas such that there could be no haphazard or accidental contact between juvenile and adult residents in the respective facilities; (B) total separation in all juvenile and adult program activities within the facilities, including recreation, education, counseling, health care, dining, sleeping and general living activities; and (C) separate juvenile and adult staff, including management, security staff and direct care staff such as recreational, educational and counseling.

(o) "Juvenile detention facility" means any secure public or private facility used for the lawful custody of accused or adjudicated juvenile offenders that must not be a jail.

(p) "Juvenile intake and assessment worker" means a responsible adult authorized to perform intake and assessment services as part of the intake and assessment system established pursuant to K.S.A. 75-7023, and amendments thereto.

(q) "Kinship care placement" means the placement of a child in the home of an adult with whom the child or the child's parent already has close emotional ties.

(r) "Kinship caregiver" means an adult who the secretary has selected for placement for a child in need of care with whom the child or the child's parent already has close emotional ties.

(s) "Law enforcement officer" means any person who by virtue of office or public employment is vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for crimes, whether that duty extends to all crimes or is limited to specific crimes.

~~(s)~~(t) "Multidisciplinary team" means a group of persons, appointed by the court under K.S.A. 38-2228, and amendments thereto, that has knowledge of the circumstances of a child in need of care.

~~(s)~~(u) "Neglect" means acts or omissions by a parent, guardian or person responsible for the care of a child resulting in harm to a child, or presenting a likelihood of harm, and the acts or omissions are not due solely to the lack of financial means of the child's parents or other custodian. Neglect may include, but shall not be limited to:

(1) Failure to provide the child with food, clothing or shelter necessary to sustain the life or health of the child;

(2) failure to provide adequate supervision of a child or to remove a child from a situation that requires judgment or actions beyond the child's level of maturity, physical condition or mental abilities and that results in bodily injury or a likelihood of harm to the child;
or

(3) failure to use resources available to treat a diagnosed medical condition if such treatment will make a child substantially more comfortable, reduce pain and suffering, or correct or substantially diminish a crippling condition from worsening. A parent legitimately practicing religious beliefs who does not provide specified medical treatment for a child because of religious beliefs shall, not for that reason, be considered a negligent parent; however, this exception shall not preclude a court from entering an order pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2217(a)(2), and amendments thereto.

~~(u)~~(v) "Parent" when used in relation to a child or children, includes a guardian and every person who is by law liable to maintain, care for or support the child.

~~(v)~~(w) "Party" means the state, the petitioner, the child, any parent of the child and an Indian child's tribe intervening pursuant to the Indian child welfare act.

~~(w)~~(x) "Permanency goal" means the outcome of the permanency planning process, which may be reintegration, adoption, appointment of a permanent custodian or another planned permanent living arrangement.

~~(x)~~(y) "Permanent custodian" means a judicially approved permanent guardian of a child pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2272, and amendments thereto.

~~(y)~~(z) "Physical, mental or emotional abuse" means the infliction of physical, mental or emotional harm or the causing of a deterioration of a child and may include, but shall not be limited to, maltreatment or exploiting a child to the extent that the child's health or emotional well-being is endangered.

~~(z)~~(aa) "Placement" means the designation by the individual or agency having custody of where and with whom the child will live.

~~(aa)~~(bb) "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program designated by the secretary for children and families as a qualified residential treatment program pursuant to federal law.

~~(bb)~~(cc) "Reasonable and prudent parenting standard" means the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety and best interests of a child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child, that a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the state to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities.

~~(ee)~~(dd) "Relative" means a person related by blood, marriage or adoption.

~~(dd)~~(ee) "Runaway" means a child who is willfully and voluntarily absent from the child's home without the consent of the child's parent or other custodian.

~~(ee)~~(ff) "Secretary" means the secretary for children and families or the secretary's designee.

~~(ff)~~(gg) "Secure facility" means a facility, other than a staff secure facility or juvenile detention facility, that is operated or structured so as to ensure that all entrances and exits from the facility are under the exclusive control of the staff of the facility, whether or not the person being detained has freedom of movement within the perimeters of the facility, or that relies on locked rooms and buildings, fences or physical restraint in order to control behavior of its residents. No secure facility shall be in a city or county jail.

~~(gg)~~(hh) "Sexual abuse" means any contact or interaction with a child in which the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator, the child or another person. Sexual abuse shall include, but is not limited to, allowing, permitting or encouraging a child to:

- (1) Be photographed, filmed or depicted in pornographic material; or
- (2) be subjected to aggravated human trafficking, as defined in K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-5426(b), and amendments thereto, if committed in whole or in part for the purpose of the sexual gratification of the offender or another, or be subjected to an act that would constitute conduct proscribed by article 55 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated or K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-6419 or 21-6422, and amendments thereto.

~~(hh)~~(ii) "Shelter facility" means any public or private facility or home, other than a juvenile detention facility or staff secure facility, that may be used in accordance with this code for the purpose of providing either temporary placement for children in need of care prior to the issuance of a dispositional order or longer term care under a dispositional order.

~~(ii)~~(jj) "Staff secure facility" means a facility described in K.S.A. 65-535, and amendments thereto: (1) That does not include construction features designed to physically

restrict the movements and activities of juvenile residents who are placed therein; (2) that may establish reasonable rules restricting entrance to and egress from the facility; and (3) in which the movements and activities of individual juvenile residents may, for treatment purposes, be restricted or subject to control through the use of intensive staff supervision. No staff secure facility shall be in a city or county jail.

~~(jj)~~(kk) "Transition plan" means, when used in relation to a youth in the custody of the secretary, an individualized strategy for the provision of medical, mental health, education, employment and housing supports as needed for the adult and, if applicable, for any minor child of the adult, to live independently and specifically provides for the supports and any services for which an adult with a disability is eligible including, but not limited to, funding for home and community based services waivers.

~~(kk)~~(ll) "Youth residential facility" means any home, foster home or structure that provides 24-hour-a-day care for children and that is licensed pursuant to article 5 of chapter 65 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 38-2203 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-2203. (a) Proceedings concerning any child who may be a child in need of care shall be governed by this code, except in those instances when the court knows or has reason to know that an Indian child is involved in the proceeding, in which case, the Indian child welfare act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. § 1901 et seq., applies. The Indian child welfare act may apply to: The filing to initiate a child in need of care proceeding, K.S.A. 38-2234, and amendments thereto; ex parte custody orders, K.S.A. 38-2242, and amendments thereto; temporary custody hearing, K.S.A. 38-2243, and amendments thereto; adjudication, K.S.A. 38-2247, and amendments thereto; burden of proof, K.S.A. 38-2250, and amendments thereto; disposition, K.S.A. 38-2255, and amendments thereto; permanency hearings, K.S.A. 38-2264, and amendments thereto; termination of parental rights, K.S.A. 38-2267, 38-2268 and 38-2269, and amendments thereto; establishment of permanent custodianship,

K.S.A. 38-2268 and 38-2272, and amendments thereto; the Representative Gail Finney memorial foster care bill of rights, section 1, and amendments thereto; the placement of a child in any foster, pre-adoptive and adoptive home and the placement of a child in a guardianship arrangement under article 30 of chapter 59 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

(b) Subject to the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act, K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 23-37,101 through 23-37,405, and amendments thereto, the district court shall have original jurisdiction of proceedings pursuant to this code.

(c) The court acquires jurisdiction over a child by the filing of a petition pursuant to this code or upon issuance of an ex parte order pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2242, and amendments thereto. When the court acquires jurisdiction over a child in need of care, jurisdiction may continue until the child has: (1) Become 18 years of age, or until June 1 of the school year during which the child became 18 years of age if the child is still attending high school unless there is no court approved transition plan, in which event jurisdiction may continue until a transition plan is approved by the court or until the child reaches the age of 21; (2) been adopted; or (3) been discharged by the court. Any child 18 years of age or over may request, in writing to the court, that the jurisdiction of the court cease. The court shall give notice of the request to all parties and interested parties and 30 days after receipt of the request, jurisdiction will cease.

(d) When it is no longer appropriate for the court to exercise jurisdiction over a child, the court, upon its own motion or the motion of a party or interested party at a hearing or upon agreement of all parties or interested parties, shall enter an order discharging the child. Except upon request of the child pursuant to subsection (c), the court shall not enter an order discharging a child until June 1 of the school year during which the child becomes 18 years of age if the child is in an out-of-home placement, is still attending high school and has not completed the child's high school education.

(e) When a petition is filed under this code, a person who is alleged to be under 18 years of age shall be presumed to be under that age for the purposes of this code, unless the contrary is proved.

(f) A court's order issued in a proceeding pursuant to this code, shall take precedence over such orders in a civil custody case, a proceeding under article 31 of chapter 60 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, protection from abuse act, or a comparable case in another jurisdiction, except as provided by K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 23-37,101 through 23-37,405, and amendments thereto, uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 38-2258 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-2258. (a) Except as provided in K.S.A. 38-2255(d)(2) and 38-2259, and amendments thereto, if a child has been in the same foster home, kinship care placement or shelter facility for six months or longer, or has been placed by the secretary in the home of a parent or relative, the secretary shall give written notice of any plan to move the child to a different placement unless the move is to the selected preadoptive family for the purpose of facilitating adoption. The notice shall be given to: (1) The court having jurisdiction over the child; (2) the petitioner; (3) the attorney for the parents, if any; (4) each parent whose address is available; (5) the foster parent or custodian from whose home or shelter facility it is proposed to remove the child; (6) the child, if 12 or more years of age; (7) the child's guardian ad litem; (8) any other party or interested party; and (9) the child's court appointed special advocate.

(b) The notice shall state the placement to which the secretary plans to transfer the child and the reason for the proposed action. The notice shall be mailed by first class mail 30 days in advance of the planned transfer, except that the secretary shall not be required to wait 30 days to transfer the child if all persons enumerated in subsection (a)(2) through (8) consent in writing to the transfer.

(c) Within 14 days after receipt of the notice, any person enumerated in subsection (a)

(2) through (8) receiving notice as provided above may request, either orally or in writing, that the court conduct a hearing to determine whether or not the change in placement is in the best interests of the child concerned. When the request has been received, the court shall schedule a hearing and immediately notify the secretary of the request and the time and date the matter will be heard. The court shall give notice of the hearing to persons enumerated in subsection (a)(2) through (9). If the court does not receive a request for hearing within the specified time, the change in placement may occur prior to the expiration of the 30 days. The secretary shall not change the placement of the child, except for the purpose of adoption, unless the change is approved by the court.

(d) When, after the notice set out above, a child in the custody of the secretary is removed from the home of a parent after having been placed in the home of a parent for a period of six months or longer, the secretary shall request a finding that:

- (1) (A) The child is likely to sustain harm if not immediately removed from the home;
- (B) allowing the child to remain in home is contrary to the welfare of the child; or
- (C) immediate placement of the child is in the best interest of the child; and

(2) reasonable efforts have been made to maintain the family unit and prevent the unnecessary removal of the child from the child's home or that an emergency exists which threatens the safety to the child.

(e) The secretary shall present to the court in writing the efforts to maintain the family unit and prevent the unnecessary removal of the child from the child's home. In making the findings, the court may rely on documentation submitted by the secretary or may set the date for a hearing on the matter. If the secretary requests such finding, the court, not more than 45 days from the date of the request, shall provide the secretary with a written copy of the findings by the court for the purpose of documenting these orders.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 38-2261 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-2261. The secretary

shall notify the foster parent or ~~parents~~ kinship caregivers that the foster parent or ~~parents~~ kinship caregivers have a right to submit a report. Copies of the report shall be available to the parties and interested parties. The report made by foster parents shall be on a form created and provided by the Kansas department for children and families.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 38-2202, 38-2203, 38-2258 and 38-2261 are hereby repealed.";

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 4, after "parents" by inserting "; applying the federal Indian child welfare act to the Representative Gail Finney memorial foster care bill of rights; defining kinship caregivers; granting rights to kinship caregivers under the revised Kansas code for care of children; amending K.S.A. 38-2202, 38-2203, 38-2258 and 38-2261 and repealing the existing sections"; and the bill be passed as amended.

Chairperson