HOUSE BILL No. 2132

By Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

Requested by Laura Howard, Secretary for Children and Families

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1 AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to the revised Kansas 2 code for care of children; modifying the definition of neglect; 3 prohibiting the removal of a child from such child's home due solely to 4 a lack of financial resources; requiring facts of imminent harm due to a 5 lack of financial resources demonstrate more than one fact of such lack 6 of financial resources; allowing the court to consider the participation 7 of parents in services when determining whether a child shall be removed from such child's home: amending K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 38-8 9 2202, 38-2234 and 38-2243 and repealing the existing sections.

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34 35 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 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, 74-8810(j), 79-3321(m) or (n), or—K.S.A. 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. 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. 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. 21-5426, and amendments thereto, or commercial sexual exploitation of a child, as defined by K.S.A. 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. 21-6419, and amendments thereto.
- (e) "Child abuse medical resource center" means a medical institution affiliated with an accredited children's hospital or a recognized institution of higher education that has an accredited medical school program with board-certified child abuse pediatricians who provide training, support, mentoring and peer review to CARE providers on CARE exams.
- (f) "Child abuse review and evaluation exam" or "CARE exam" means a forensic medical evaluation of a child alleged to be a victim of abuse or neglect conducted by a CARE provider.
- (g) "Child abuse review and evaluation network" or "CARE network" means a network of CARE providers, child abuse medical resource centers and any medical provider associated with a child advocacy center that has the ability to conduct a CARE exam that collaborate to improve services provided to a child alleged to be a victim of abuse or neglect.

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"Child abuse review and evaluation provider" or "CARE provider" means a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, advanced practice registered nurse or licensed physician assistant who performs CARE exams of and provides medical diagnosis and treatment to a child alleged to be a victim of abuse or neglect and who receives:

- (1) Kansas-based initial intensive training regarding child maltreatment from the CARE network;
- (2) continuous trainings on child maltreatment from the CARE network; and
- (3) peer review and new provider mentoring regarding medical evaluations from a child abuse medical resource center
- (i) "Child abuse review and evaluation referral" or "CARE referral" means a brief written review of allegations of physical abuse, emotional abuse, medical neglect or physical neglect submitted by the secretary or law enforcement agency to a child abuse medical resource center for a recommendation of such child's need for medical care that may include a CARE exam
- (j) "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.
- (k) "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.
- "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.
- (m) "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.
- "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.
- 41 (o) "Educational institution" means all schools at the elementary and 42 secondary levels. 43
 - (p) "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.

- (q) "Harm" means physical or psychological injury or damage.
- (r) "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.
 - (s) "Jail" means:

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- (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.
- (t) "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.
- (u) "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.
- (v) "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.
- (w) "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.
- (x) "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.
- (y) "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.
- (z) "Neglect" means acts or omissions by a parent, guardian or person who is 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, guardian or other custodian person who is responsible for the care of such child. The inability to provide for a child by a parent, guardian or person who is responsible for the care of such child due to inadequate financial resources thereof shall not be considered neglect for such reason alone. Neglect may include, but shall not be limited to:

- (1) FailureRefusal to provide the child with food, clothing or shelter necessary to sustain the life or health of the child when the parent, guardian or person responsible for the care of such child is otherwise financially able to provide such care or offered financial or other reasonable resources to provide such care;
- (2) failurerefusal 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) failurerefusal 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.
- (aa) "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.
- (bb) "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.
- (cc) "Permanency goal" means the outcome of the permanency planning process, which may be reintegration, adoption, appointment of a permanent custodian, establishment of SOUL family legal permanency or another planned permanent living arrangement.
- (dd) "Permanent custodian" means a judicially approved permanent guardian of a child pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2272, and amendments thereto.
- (ee) "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 wellbeing is endangered.
 - (ff) "Placement" means the designation by the individual or agency

having custody of where and with whom the child will live.

- (gg) "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.
- (hh) "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.
 - (ii) "Relative" means a person related by blood, marriage or adoption.
- (jj) "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.
- (kk) "Secretary" means the secretary for children and families or the secretary's designee.
- (II) "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.
- (mm) "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. 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. 21-6419 or 21-6422, and amendments thereto.
- (nn) "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.
- (oo) "Support, opportunity, unity, legal relationships family legal permanency" or "SOUL family legal permanency" means the appointment of one or more adults, approved by a child who is 16 years of age or older

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 and the subject of a child in need of care proceeding, pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2272a, and amendments thereto.

- (pp) "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.
- (qq) "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.
- (rr) "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.
- (ss) "Behavioral health crisis" means behavioral and conduct issues that impact the safety or health of a child, members of the child's household or family or members of the community, including, but not limited to, non-life threatening mental health and substance abuse concerns
- Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 38-2234 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-2234. (a) *Filing and contents of petition.* (1) A petition filed to commence an action pursuant to this code shall be filed with the clerk of the district court and shall state, if known:
 - (A) The name, date of birth and residence address of the child;
 - (B) the name and residence address of the child's parents;
- (C) the name and address of the child's nearest known relative if no parent can be found;
- (D) the name and residence address of any persons having custody or control of the child; and
- (E) plainly and concisely in the language of the statutory definition, the basis for the petition.
- (2) The petition shall also state the specific facts that are relied upon to support the allegation referred to in the preceding paragraph, including any known dates, times and locations.
 - (3) The proceedings shall be entitled: "In the Interest of

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(4) The petition shall contain a request that the court find the child to be a child in need of care.

- (5) The petition shall contain a request that the parent or parents be ordered to pay child support. The request for child support may be omitted with respect to a parent already ordered to pay child support for the child and shall be omitted with respect to one or both parents upon written request of the secretary.
- (6) If the petition requests custody of the child to the secretary or a person other than the child's parent, the petition shall specify the efforts known to the petitioner to have been made to maintain the family and prevent the transfer of custody, or it shall specify the facts demonstrating that an emergency exists which that threatens the safety to the child.
- (7) (A) If the petition requests removal of the child from the child's home, in addition to the information required by K.S.A. 38-2234(a)(6), and amendments thereto, the petition shall specify the facts demonstrating that allowing the child to remain in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child or that placement is in the best interests of the child and the child is likely to sustain imminent harm if not removed from the home. Such facts specified shall show a causal relationship between the particular conditions in the home and imminent harm to the child. Facts demonstrating imminent harm shall not include any of the following alone:
 - (i) Community or family poverty;
- (ii) isolation;
 - (iii) age of the parent;
 - (iv) crowded or inadequate housing;
 - (v) substance abuse;
 - (vi) prenatal drug or alcohol exposure;
 - (vii) mental or behavioral health conditions;
 - (viii) disability or special needs of the parent or child; or
 - (ix) a finding of noncompliance with compulsory school attendance pursuant to K.S.A. 72-1113, and amendments thereto.
 - (B) Including imminent harm to the child in such petition shall show that such harm outweighs the harm to the child as a result of such requested removal.
 - (8) The petition shall have an attached copy of the prevention plan, if any, that has been prepared for the child.
- (9) The petition shall contain the following statement: "If you do not appear in court the court will be making decisions without your input, which could result in:
- (A) The permanent or temporary removal of the child from the custody of the parent or present legal guardian;

(B) an order requiring one or both parents to pay child support until the permanent termination of one or both of the parents' parental rights;

- (C) the permanent termination of one or both of the parents' parental rights;
- (D) the appointment of a SOUL family legal permanency custodian for the child; and
 - (E) the appointment of a permanent custodian for the child.

If you cannot attend the hearing you may send a written response to the petition to the clerk of the court."

- (10) The petition shall contain the following statement: "You may receive further notices of other hearings, proceedings and actions in this case which you may attend. These notices will be sent to you by first class mail to your last known address or an address you provide to the court. It is your responsibility to keep the court informed of your current address."
- (b) *Motions*. Motions may be made orally or in writing. The motion shall state with particularity the grounds for the motion and shall state the relief or order sought.
- Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 38-2243 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-2243. (a) Upon notice and hearing, the court may issue an order directing who shall have temporary custody and may modify the order during the pendency of the proceedings as will best serve the child's welfare.
- (b) A hearing pursuant to this section shall be held within 72 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, and days on which the office of the clerk of the court is not accessible, following a child having been taken into protective custody.
- (c) Whenever it is determined that a temporary custody hearing is required, the court shall immediately set the time and place for the hearing. Notice of a temporary custody hearing shall be given to all parties and interested parties.
- (d) Notice of the temporary custody hearing shall be given at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. The court may continue the hearing to afford the 24 hours prior notice or, with the consent of the party or interested party, proceed with the hearing at the designated time. If an order of temporary custody is entered and the parent or other person having custody of the child has not been notified of the hearing, did not appear or waive appearance and requests a rehearing, the court shall rehear the matter without unnecessary delay.
- (e) Oral notice may be used for giving notice of a temporary custody hearing where there is insufficient time to give written notice. Oral notice is completed upon filing a certificate of oral notice.
- (f) Subject to subsection (g), the court may enter an order of temporary custody after determining that there is probable cause to believe

that the:

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- (1) Child is dangerous to self or to others;
- (2) child is not likely to be available within the jurisdiction of the court for future proceedings;
- (3) health or welfare of the child may be endangered without further care;
- (4) child has been subjected to human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking, as defined by K.S.A. 21-5426, and amendments thereto, or commercial sexual exploitation of a child, as defined by K.S.A. 21-6422, and amendments thereto;
- (5) child is experiencing a behavioral health crisis and is in need of treatment; or
- (6) child committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a violation of K.S.A. 21-6419, and amendments thereto.
- (g) (1) If the court determines that there is probable cause under subsection (f), before entering an order of temporary custody, the court shall further consider the following:
- (A) Whether participation by the parents, guardians or legal custodians in any prevention services would prevent or eliminate the need for removal, and if so, the court shall inquire from the parent if such parent is willing to participate in such services. The court shall not order a parent to participate in prevention services over the objection of such parent, except that a parent shall have the opportunity to consult with counsel prior to deciding whether to agree to proposed prevention services as a condition of having the child return to or remain in the care of the parent; and
- (B) whether the issuance of the temporary order of protection directing the removal of a person or persons from the child's residence would prevent the need for removal of the child.
- (2) If the parent agrees to participate in prevention services identified by the court under this subsection that would prevent or eliminate the need for removal, the court shall place the child with such parent.
- (h) (1) Whenever the court determines the necessity for an order of temporary custody the court may place the child in the temporary custody of:
- (A) A parent or other person having custody of the child and may enter a restraining order pursuant to subsection $\frac{h}{h}(i)$;
- (B) a person, other than the parent or other person having custody, who shall not be required to be licensed under article 5 of chapter 65 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;
 - (C) a youth residential facility;
- (D) a shelter facility;
 - (E) a staff secure facility, notwithstanding any other provision of law,

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42 43 if the child has been subjected to human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking, as defined by K.S.A. 21-5426, and amendments thereto, or commercial sexual exploitation of a child, as defined by K.S.A. 21-6422, and amendments thereto, or the child committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a violation of K.S.A. 21-6419, and amendments thereto;

- (F) after written authorization by a community mental health center, a juvenile crisis intervention center, as described in K.S.A. 65-536, and amendments thereto; or
- (G) the secretary, if the child is 15 years of age or younger, or 16 or 17 years of age if the child has no identifiable parental or family resources or shows signs of physical, mental, emotional or sexual abuse.
- 13 (2) If the secretary presents the court with a plan to provide services 14 to a child or family-which that the court finds will assure the safety of the 15 child, the court may only place the child in the temporary custody of the 16 secretary until the court finds the services are in place. The court shall 17 have the authority to require any person or entity agreeing to participate in 18 the plan to perform as set out in the plan. When the child is placed in the 19 temporary custody of the secretary, the secretary shall have the 20 discretionary authority to place the child with a parent or to make other 21 suitable placement for the child. When the child is placed in the temporary 22 custody of the secretary and the child has been subjected to human 23 trafficking or aggravated human trafficking, as defined by K.S.A. 21-5426, 24 and amendments thereto, or commercial sexual exploitation of a child, as 25 defined by K.S.A 21-6422, and amendments thereto, or the child committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a 26 27 violation of K.S.A. 21-6419, and amendments thereto, the secretary shall 28 have the discretionary authority to place the child in a staff secure facility. notwithstanding any other provision of law. When the child is presently 29 30 alleged, but not yet adjudicated to be a child in need of care solely 31 pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2202(d)(9) or (d)(10), and amendments thereto, the 32 child may be placed in a secure facility, but the total amount of time that 33 the child may be held in such facility under this section and K.S.A. 38-34 2242, and amendments thereto, shall not exceed 24 hours, excluding 35 Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, and days on which the office of the 36 clerk of the court is not accessible. The order of temporary custody shall 37 remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the court or an adjudication 38 order is entered but not exceeding 60 days, unless good cause is shown 39 and stated on the record.
 - $\frac{(h)(i)}{(h)}$ If the court issues an order of temporary custody, the court may also enter an order restraining any alleged perpetrator of physical, sexual, mental or emotional abuse of the child from residing in the child's home; visiting, contacting, harassing or intimidating the child; or attempting to

visit, contact, harass or intimidate the child, other family members or witnesses. Such restraining order shall be served by personal service pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2237(a), and amendments thereto, on any alleged perpetrator to whom the order is directed.

- $\frac{(i)}{(j)}(j)$ (1) The court shall not enter the initial order removing a child from the custody of a parent pursuant to this section unless the court first finds probable cause that:
- (A) (i) The child is likely to sustain harm if not immediately removed from the home;
- (ii) allowing the child to remain in home is contrary to the welfare of the child; or
 - (iii) immediate placement of the child is in the best interest of the child; and
 - (B) 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 that threatens the safety to the child.
 - (2) Such findings shall be included in any order entered by the court. If the child is placed in the custody of the secretary, upon making the order the court shall provide the secretary with a written copy.
 - $\frac{f}{f}(k)$ If the court enters an order of temporary custody that provides for placement of the child with a person other than the parent, the court shall make a child support determination pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2277, and amendments thereto.
 - $\frac{(k)(l)}{l}$ For the purposes of this section, "harassing or intimidating" and "harass or intimidate" includes, but is not limited to, utilizing any electronic tracking system or acquiring tracking information to determine the targeted person's location, movement or travel patterns.
- 28 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 38-2202, 38-2234 and 38-2243 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.