

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2179

As Recommended by House Committee on
Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Brief*

HB 2179 would amend law regarding juvenile fines and fees assessed in actions brought pursuant the Revised Kansas Juvenile Justice Code (Code).

Prohibition and Elimination of Fines and Fees (New Section 1)

The bill would prohibit all fines, fees, costs, court expenses, reimbursements, or other financial obligations (fines and fees) from being ordered, assessed, or sought against a juvenile or a juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian in an action under the Code.

On and after July 1, 2025, any outstanding court-ordered fines and fees that were ordered, assessed, or sought against a juvenile or a juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian during an action under the Code would be discharged and not be collected. The bill would specify that the elimination of fines and fees pursuant to the bill would include those fines and fees that are currently being collected utilizing a contracting agent.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

Types of Fines and Fees (Sections 2-11, 13, 18, 23, and 27)

The bill would amend statutes governing the following fines and fees to provide that no fee should be assessed to juveniles in any action under the Code for:

- Fingerprinting fees;
- County law library fees;
- House arrest supervision costs;
- Juvenile adjudication offender registration fees;
- Docket fees that are deposited in the Prosecuting Attorneys' Training Fund to fund the costs of non-judicial personnel;
- Forensic science fees;
- Expenses related to appointed attorney representation in proceedings under the Code;
- Docket fees or non-judicial personnel fees for a petitioner filing for expungement;
- Counseling or testing fees;
- Mental health evaluation and treatment and post-adjudication assessment tool costs;
- Appeals fees and expenses, including transcripts and records; and
- DNA database fees.

Juvenile Care and Custody (Sections 12, 14, 17, and 20)

The bill would provide that the expenses for the care and custody of a juvenile, including house arrest and evidence-based programs under the Code, would not be assessed to the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian if the juvenile is placed out of the home. The bill would remove the current requirement that a court complaint contain a request that the parents of a juvenile be ordered to pay child support if the juvenile is removed from the home. The bill would provide that the juvenile's parents would not be ordered to pay child support if the juvenile is removed from the home for competency evaluation and treatment under the Code.

Inability to Pay Fines and Fees; Sentencing Alternatives (Sections 15 and 19)

The bill would amend current law to provide that no juvenile would be placed in detention solely due to nonpayment of any fines, fees, court costs, or restitution. The bill would provide that no financial terms or conditions including fines, fees, cost, and child support would be assessed to a juvenile or the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian for participation in:

- Community-based programming;
- Out-of-home placements;
- House arrest programs;
- Drug or alcohol testing;
- Electronic monitoring; or
- Remote alcohol monitoring.

Technical Changes (Sections 21 and 24)

The bill would make technical changes to align statutory cross-references regarding reintegration plans, the restriction on non-foster home beds in youth residential facilities, and juvenile correctional facility placements.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice at the request of a representative of Kansas Appleseed.

House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

During the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas, Juvenile Law Center, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, and Progeny, and a private citizen. The proponents generally stated that fines and fees are wasteful and inefficient because collecting fines and fees costs staff time and resources. The proponents further stated fines and fees put juveniles in difficult positions to decide whether to pay a fine or pay a bill.

Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by representatives of the Institute for Justice and Sedgwick County Public Defender Office.

Written-only neutral testimony was submitted by a representative of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of the bill would have negligible effect on expenditures and revenues of the Judicial Branch; however, the bill would result in a decrease in revenue for various state funds and the State General Fund, and a precise fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

The Sentencing Commission and the Department of Corrections indicate enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on the agencies. However, the Department of Corrections notes that fees referenced in the bill are collected and maintained at the local level by various state agencies.

Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Revised Kansas Juvenile Justice Code; fines; fees; costs; court expenses; reimbursements; collections; assessments