

SESSION OF 2025

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 85**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Government Efficiency

**Brief\***

SB 85, as amended, would require the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary) to enter into data-matching agreements with specified agencies to receive and review information from state and federal agencies for the purpose of verifying food assistance program eligibility and publish certain findings of noncompliance and fraud investigations on the Kansas Department for Children and Families' (DCF) website.

***Review and Comparison of Data***

The bill would require the Secretary to enter into data-matching agreements with state agencies to compare data related to households receiving food assistance and other state data sets.

The bill would also require the Secretary to review data from state and federal agencies on a semi-monthly, monthly, or quarterly basis that could impact food assistance eligibility for an individual or household. These agencies include:

- Department of Corrections;
- Department of Labor;
- Department of Revenue;

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\*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/>

- Kansas Lottery;
- Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission;
- Office of Vital Statistics;
- United States Department of Health and Human Services;
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; and
- United States Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The bill would also require, on at least a quarterly basis, the Secretary to provide the following information on the DCF website:

- Number of households investigated for intentional program violations or fraud;
- Total number of households referred to the Office of the Attorney General for prosecution;
- Improper payments and expenditures;
- Moneys recovered;
- Data concerning improper payments and ineligible recipients as a percentage of those investigated and reviewed; and
- Amount of funds expended by electronic benefit card transactions in each state outside of Kansas.

### **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Government Efficiency at the request of Senator Erickson.

### **Senate Committee on Government Efficiency**

At the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Opportunity Solutions Project. The proponent generally stated that improper payment rates have risen over the last decade, and these required data checks will help ensure individuals and households who are ineligible are removed from receiving food stamp benefits.

**Opponent** testimony was provided by a representative of DCF and a representative of Harvesters Community Food Network, Kansas Food Bank, and Second Harvest Community Food Bank. The opponents generally stated that much of this data is largely already collected and reviewed by the agency on a different frequency schedule or threshold. The DCF Representative noted, of the data that is currently not under a data sharing agreement, the data exchange would require funds for an initial expenditure and ongoing maintenance. Additionally, agency staff may need to re-verify information or complete additional manual reviews of the information.

No other testimony was provided

The Senate Committee amended the bill to remove the requirement that the Secretary review records and compare records from the Social Security Administration.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, DCF indicates that enactment of the bill would increase agency expenditures by \$11.0 million from all funding sources, including \$10.5 million from the State General Fund (SGF) for FY 2026. Continued expenditures for FY 2027 and in the out-years would be \$9.5 million from all funding sources, including \$9.0 million from the SGF.

DCF states there are 361.00 regional workers performing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)-related activities. The changes noted to comply with the continuous eligibility would be expected to increase the amount of work needing to be performed by 50.0 percent, or an additional 182.00 positions. As of January 2025, there was a 12.0 percent vacancy rate for eligibility workers, which equates to 71.00 positions. Allowing for these vacancies, it is estimated 111.00 positions would be needed to manage the increased tasks related to SNAP. These positions would include 1.00 Administrative Assistant position, 14.00 Human Services Assistant positions, 15.00 Human Services Consultant positions, 67.00 Human Services Specialist positions, 11.00 Human Services Supervisors, and 3.00 Program Consultant positions. These positions would be benefits-eligible and additional building space would be needed. An additional \$9.0 million is estimated to fund the increase in staffing related to the continuous monitoring and review of food assistance benefits with increased data comparisons.

DCF estimates the development or expansion of current interfaces would result in initial expenditures of \$1.8 million. Ongoing maintenance of these interfaces is estimated at an annual cost of \$360,000 (20.0 percent of the initial development costs). Additional staffing would be required to manage the interfaces and produce the information needed to verify continuous eligibility. These positions would be located in Economic and Employment Services administration. These duties would require the hiring of two Management Systems Analysts at an annual salary and benefits of \$65,971 for each position. Other expenses would also be incurred by these positions such as communications, travel, fees, etc. at an estimated cost of \$12,767 for the first year. These positions would also be used to post the information related to non-compliance and fraud investigations. The annual estimated costs for these positions including other operating costs are \$162,169 during the FY 2026.

DCF states that federal funds covered expenses related to the administration of the SNAP program during Federal Fiscal Year 2024 totaled \$30.2 million. Kansas spent all but \$639,023 of the federal funds awarded. It is estimated approximately \$500,000 in federal SNAP administrative funds are available to cover the changes proposed by the bill. All expenses above this amount would require an SGF appropriation. Changes made to the food assistance benefits paid to recipients would have no impact on the state budget. These funds are 100.0 percent federally funded and are passed through to the recipients. These benefits are not reflected in the state budget.

The Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, Department of Labor, Department of Health and Environment, and Department of Corrections indicate the bill would have no fiscal effect on their agencies.

The Kansas Lottery and the Kansas Department of Revenue indicate that enactment of SB 85 would have negligible fiscal effect on the agencies.

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

Public assistance; Secretary for Children and Families; state agencies; data; eligibility