

February 18, 2014

The Honorable Jeff King, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 341-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator King:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 368 by Senate Committee on Ways and Means

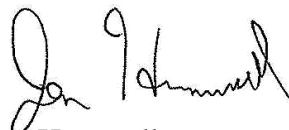
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 368 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Under current law, when a child is removed from the home, the court must consider a grandparent when determining custody, visitation, and residency arrangements. The grandparent's wishes, the extent to which the grandparent cared for the child, and the intent and circumstances of the child's placement with a grandparent are factors the court must evaluate when determining the child's custody. When a child is placed in the custody of the Department for Children and Families, a grandparent must receive substantial consideration when placing the child. If the child is not placed with a grandparent, the agency must justify the decision.

SB 368 would broaden the court's requirement to consider a relative rather than a grandparent. In the event more than one relative is seeking custody of the child, the court would prioritize the relatives using the following order: grandparents, great-grandparents, adult siblings, uncles or aunts.

Passage of SB 368 would have no fiscal effect.

Sincerely,



Jon Hummell,
Interim Director of the Budget

cc: Jackie Aubert, Children & Families
Mary Rinehart, Judiciary