

# STATE OF KANSAS

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GOVERNOR JEFF COLYER, M.D.  
LARRY L. CAMPBELL, CHIEF BUDGET OFFICER

March 20, 2018

The Honorable Vicki Schmidt, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Statehouse, Room 441-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Schmidt:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 443 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 443 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 443 would change reporting and investigation requirements for reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation. The bill would require the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to relay reports of abuse, neglect or sexual abuse to appropriate law enforcement agencies. DCF would be required to send a report to law enforcement if the agency receives a report from a required reporter or if the agency receives two different reports from any person regarding the same child.

The bill would require DCF investigations to include personal contact with the child suspected of being abused and all other children in the home. Investigators would be allowed to interview children without parental consent and alleged abusers would not be permitted to attend the interviews. If investigators are denied reasonable access to the child in question, they would be permitted to seek assistance from law enforcement or seek a court order to allow them access to the child.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2018 SGF	FY 2018 All Funds	FY 2019 SGF	FY 2019 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$667,879	\$667,879
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	11.00

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DCF indicates enactment of SB 443 would increase agency expenditures by \$667,879 in FY 2019. The agency also estimates expenditures would increase by approximately \$650,000 in FY 2020 and FY 2021. DCF currently receives approximately 38,000 reports each year involving children meeting the criteria identified in the bill. In order to relay reports to appropriate law enforcement agencies, DCF indicates an additional 11.00 FTE Intake Protection Specialists would need to be hired. Salaries and wages for these new FTE positions, including fringe benefits, are estimated at \$581,188 in FY 2019. In addition to hiring additional employees, DCF would incur additional operating expenses totaling \$86,691 in FY 2019. These expenditures would be ongoing and would become a part of the agency's base operating budget.

The Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of SB 443 could have a fiscal effect on the courts. Requiring DCF to relay more reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation could potentially result in more child in need of care cases being filed in district courts. If case filings increase, time spent by district courts processing, researching and hearing cases would also increase. The Office is not able to estimate the fiscal effect because the Office cannot estimate how many more cases would be filed in district courts. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 443 is not reflected in *The FY 2019 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Larry L. Campbell  
Chief Budget Officer

cc: Jackie Aubert, Children & Families  
Ashley Michaelis, Judiciary