

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Fred Patton, Chairperson
House Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 519-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Patton:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2333 by House Committee on Judiciary

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2333 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2333 would make the date of final decree of adoption the same as the date of the filing of the adoption judgment, unless the courts find it is in the best interests of the child to make the adoption decree date earlier than the adoption judgment date. The bill specifies that the decree of adoption date should in no case be before there was a relationship established between the child and the adoptive parent. Adoption decrees prior to July 1, 2019, could be modified at the request of an adoptive parent within 180 days of the enactment of the bill. Cases where the person adopted was the age of majority before the petition for adoption is filed would be excluded from the new provisions.

The Department for Children and Families indicates that in rare cases HB 2333 could affect the Adoption Subsidy Program by making the date of finalization earlier. However, the fiscal effect on expenditures would be negligible. The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that HB 2333 could increase time spent by district court judicial personnel in researching and hearing adoption cases. However, it is not possible to predict the number of additional court cases that would arise or how complex and time-consuming they would be. Therefore, a precise fiscal effect cannot be determined. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2333 is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Larry L. Campbell
Director of the Budget

cc: Janie Harris, Judiciary
Jackie Aubert, Children & Families