

SESSION OF 2019

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2392

As Amended by House Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

HB 2392, as amended, would amend law in the Kansas Code for Care of Children concerning investigations for child abuse or neglect.

[*Note:* the bill contains a whereas clause designating its provisions as Adrian's Law.]

Concerning investigations related to reports of child abuse or neglect, the bill would require that a child who was an alleged victim of abuse or neglect be visually observed by the employee of the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) or the law enforcement agency investigating the report. The bill would provide that in the event of a joint investigation by DCF and law enforcement, both would be required to visually observe such child. All investigation reports required by the bill would have to include the date, time, and location of any such visual observation of a child.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Representative Louis Ruiz.

At the hearing in the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs, Representative Louis Ruiz, the Wyandotte

*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 <http://www.kslegislature.org>

County District Attorney, and a representative of DCF appeared in support of the bill.

The House Committee amended the bill by removing provisions that would have added any adult residing in the same home as the child to the list of individuals required to make a report if they suspect a child has been harmed as a result of physical, mental, or emotional abuse or neglect, or sexual abuse. The language eliminated by the House Committee also contained a definition of “adult residing in the same home” and several immunity provisions.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, DCF has estimated enactment of the bill would result in an increase of abuse and neglect reports of up to 15.0 percent, or 823 additional reports, a 1.1 percent increase, above what was reported in FY 2018. DCF has indicated the increase will require 1.00 additional Investigator FTE position, at a cost of \$62, 415 from the State General Fund. DCF also anticipates enactment of the bill would increase the workload for regional staff, but indicated the increase could be absorbed within the current budget. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor’s Budget Report*.