

**Kansas Code for Care of Children; Kansas Juvenile Justice Code;
High School Diplomas; Interested Party Status for Grandparents;
Juvenile Jury Trials**

House Sub. for SB 23 adds language to the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children and the Revised Kansas Juvenile Justice Code requiring the board of education of a school district to award a high school diploma to any person requesting a diploma if the person is at least 17 years of age, is enrolled or resides in such school district, is or has been a child in the custody of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services or Juvenile Justice Authority after turning 14 years of age, and has achieved the minimum high school graduation requirements adopted by the State Board of Education.

The bill further amends the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children to automatically make a grandparent an interested party in a child in need of care proceeding.

Finally, the bill establishes a statutory right to jury trial for juvenile offenders and provides a jury trial procedure within the Revised Kansas Juvenile Justice Code. The procedural provisions are borrowed from the statutes governing adult jury trials, with some modifications.

The principal differences from the adult jury trial provisions are:

- A juvenile must request a jury trial in every case, within 30 days from the entry of a plea of not guilty. In adult felony cases, trial by jury is automatic unless waived.
- A juvenile does not have the right to personally participate in *voir dire*. Adult defendants have this right.