

February 11, 2015

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

Dear Senator King:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 148 by Senate Committee on Judiciary

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 148 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 148 would create the Safe Families Act. The bill would establish a process which would allow a parent or legal custodian to execute a power of attorney naming another caregiver or family to have physical custody and provide care for their child or children for up to one year. For “serving parents” as defined in the bill as those serving in active duty in the military, public health service, etc., the parent may delegate authority for a period longer than one year if on active duty status. These placements would not be subject to any laws, rules, or regulations related to licensing or regulation of foster homes. The execution of power of attorney would not constitute abandonment, abuse, or neglect.

Additionally, in cases where a child protective investigation by the Department for Children and Families (DCF) does not result in an out of home placement, the investigator would be required to provide information to the parent or custodian to assist them in accessing available services to address their needs within the community.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2015 SGF	FY 2015 All Funds	FY 2016 SGF	FY 2016 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$113,862	\$117,785
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	2.00

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DCF estimates that an additional 0.50 Social Worker Specialist position would be needed in each of the Department's four regions to identify all available services within each region at a total cost of \$117,785, including \$113,862 from the State General Fund. Salary and benefits costs for 2.00 Social Worker Specialist positions would be \$109,925 and operating expenses related to those four positions would be \$7,860. DCF states that there is also a possibility that SB 148 would increase the workload of investigative staff as they work with families to determine needed services and make necessary referrals. The potential increased demand on the workers time cannot be estimated.

The Office of Judicial Administration states that passage of SB 148 would have a fiscal impact on Judicial Branch expenditures or revenues. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 148 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Mary Rinehart, Judiciary
Jackie Aubert, DCF