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MEMORANDUM

To: House of Representatives Committee on Children and Seniors
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: January 31, 2022
Subject: House Bill 2525; Removing non-cooperation with child support from requirements for food and child care assistance eligibility and exempting adults enrolled in school from the 20-hour-per-week work requirement for child care assistance eligibility for a limited time.

HB 2525 amends K.S.A. 39-709, the statute that sets the requirements to receive certain public assistance, including TANF, food and child care assistance.

In subsection (b)(10), the bill strikes "child care subsidy" from those applicants or participants required to cooperate with child support enforcement. In subsection (b)(11), the bill also strikes "individuals that have not cooperated ... with child support services shall be ineligible to participate in the food assistance program." Therefore, applicants or participants for child care or food assistance would no longer be required to cooperate with child support enforcement.

Additionally, the bill strikes subsection (k), which states that applicants or participants for child care or food assistance are deemed to have assigned present or future rights to child support to the Secretary for Children and Families.

Subsection (b)(15)(B) requires the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations to determine and maintain eligibility for child care assistance, including the requirement that all adults shall be employed a minimum of 20 hours per week or meet certain exemptions to the 20-hour-per-week work requirement.

HB 2525 adds two exemptions to the 20-hour-per-week work requirement for "adults enrolled in a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school making progress toward graduation for up to 48 months" and "adults enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution for at least six credit hours that are required to obtain a degree or certificate for up to 72 months." The bill also strikes all language imposing requirements on adults enrolled in postsecondary education for assistance eligibility and a lifetime maximum amount.