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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Children and Seniors
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 16, 2022
Subject: HB 2468: Enacting the Kansas foster youth bill of rights.

House Bill 2468 proposes a Kansas foster youth bill of rights to be placed in the revised Kansas code for care of children. Consistent with the policy of the state as expressed in K.S.A. 38-2201, the new section list items that a foster youth either shall have the right to or already has the right to in statute.

The proposed bill of rights includes that a youth has the right to:

- Live in a safe, comfortable placement, where such child shall be treated with respect, store belongings, with siblings when possible, and if proper, with a relative or someone from such child's community;
- Visit with family;
- have as few placements as possible;
- have and maintain belongings by making a list and providing such list of belongings to such child's case manager, bring with when placed out of home; and be transportable;
- have access to all appropriate school supplies, services, tutoring, extra-curricular, cultural and personal enrichment activities and attend school daily;
- receive a high school diploma, if earned the credits;
- be notified of all hearings and attend held pursuant to the code;
- offer the judge thoughts on any placement or placement changes;
- have a guardian ad litem represent the best interests of the child and regular contact;
- request a lawyer who will tell the court what such child wants, if different than the determinations of the guardian ad litem;
- privacy to send and receive unopened mail and make and receive phone calls;

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- have regular and private contact with and access to case managers, attorneys and advocates;
- access to accurate and necessary information for such child's wellbeing from case managers and guardians and any person who is by law liable to maintain, care for or support the child;
- as few changes in case managers as possible;
- contact a case manager's supervisor if there is a conflict between such child and such child's case manager that cannot be resolved; and
- when transitioning out of the child welfare system, be an active participant in developing a transition plan, have services and benefits explained, have a banking account, learn to manage money, learn job skills appropriate for such child's age and be involved in life skills training and activities.