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LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS
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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Children and Seniors
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 16, 2022
Subject: HB 2469: Enacting the Kansas foster parents bill of rights.

House Bill 2469 proposes a Kansas foster parents bill of rights to be placed in the revised Kansas code for care of children. The new section addresses the purpose of the section as an effort to ensure participation of foster parents in efforts to care for children in custody of the secretary.

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

- Be treated with dignity, respect and trust as a primary provider of care;
- not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, color, creed, gender, marital status, national origin, age or physical handicap and federal law;
- if the child's values and beliefs are respected, continue with such parents' own family values and beliefs while considering the special needs of children who have experienced trauma and separation;
- make decisions concerning the child, consistent with the policies, procedures and state and federal law;
- receive standardized preservices training by the Kansas department for children and families at appropriate intervals to meet needs of the child and such parents;
- receive timely financial reimbursement and to be notified of any costs or expenses;
- receive information regarding services and contact the Kansas department for children and families during regular business hours and a telephone number for after business hours in the event of an emergency;
- be notified, prior to the placement of a child, of any information or issues concerning the child and known to the Kansas department for children and families relevant to the care

of a child that may jeopardize the health and safety of the foster family or the child or alter the manner in which care and services should be administered;

- discuss known information regarding the child prior to placement;
- with reasonable notice, refuse placement or to request the removal;
- receive any available information regarding the number of times a child has been placed and the reasons for such placements, and to receive the names and phone numbers of any previous placements if such placements have authorized;
- receive information relevant to the care of a child;
- provide input and participate in the case planning process for the child and the right to participate in and be informed about the planning of visitations;
- communicate with the child's child welfare case management provider and to share and obtain relevant and appropriate information regarding such child's placement;
- communicate with members of the child's professional team, for the purpose of participating in such child's case plan, with other professionals who work with such child's child welfare case management provider, including, but not limited to, therapists, physicians and teachers, as allowable by rules and regulations, state and federal law;
- be notified in advance of any court hearing or review where the case plan or permanency of the child is an issue, including periodic reviews held by the court, in accordance with the code;
- be considered, when appropriate, as a placement option, if a child who was formerly placed with such parents is in the custody of the secretary again;
- continue contact and communication with a child subsequent to the child's placement from such parents' family foster home, subject to the approval of the child and the child's biological parents, if such biological parents' rights have not been terminated;
- direct questions relating to licensure as a family foster home to the department of health and environment; and
- have the rights described in this section be given full consideration when the Kansas department for children and families develops and approves policies regarding placement and permanency.