

DCF LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



1/28/2021

TESTIMONY OF

Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary
Kansas Department for Children and Families

TESTIMONY ON

HB 2075

Chair

Patton

Vice Chair

Ralph

Ranking Member

Carmichael

and

Members of the Committee

SUMMARY OF ISSUE & DCF POSITION

House Bill 2075 proposes amendments to the probate code relating to adoption. The bill proposes to amend statute to provide an additional option for venue for agency adoptions: any county in which the agency or any of its contractors has an office.

DCF supports HB 2075 as it would provide an additional option for venue for agency adoptions, potentially reducing a barrier to adoption in some cases.

CONTEXT & HISTORY

If adopted, House Bill 2075 would add an additional basis by which a county can qualify as a venue in an agency adoption. Currently, if all interested parties agree in writing, the venue for adoption can be established in any county in Kansas. Otherwise, venue for agency adoptions is limited to counties in which the adoptive family resides, in which the child to be adopted resided prior to being placed in the agency's custody, or where the principal place of business for the child placing agency is located.

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION

HB 2075 proposes an amendment to K.S.A. 59-2126, adding any county in which the agency or any subcontracting agency has an office to the possible venues for an agency adoption.

Adding an additional venue option for agency adoptions could reduce logistical barriers to adoption in certain circumstances, such as when an adoptive family must travel to another county to attend adoption proceedings. DCF supports this effort to make it easier for Kansas families to adopt.

FISCAL IMPACT OF LEGISLATION

DCF assumes there is no fiscal impact related to HB 2075.

DCF POSITION

Reducing barriers to adoption is one of many factors in ensuring that youth in foster care are able to achieve permanency in a timely manner. DCF is committed to supporting efforts to reduce these barriers and stands in support of House Bill 2075.