

KANSAS OFFICE *of*  
**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care  
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Date: February 15, 2023  
Subject: HB 2361: Limiting when the court is required to give preference to a relative for the custody for adoption of a child in need of care.

House bill 2361 amends K.S.A. 38-2700, the statute that directs the court to enter orders for the placement of a child in need of care in custody for adoption. In subsection (b), when the court has granted custody under subsection (a), court shall first give preference to a relative, then second, to a person with whom the child has close emotional ties. The bill amends subsection (b) to state that the section would not apply when the child has been in the custody of the secretary for one cumulative year or more.