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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Barker
Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor

Date: March 14, 2018

Subject: HB 2754 – Guardianship Assistance Program.

House Bill No. 2754 (HB 2754) creates the Guardianship Assistance Program, which will be administered by the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary). Under the program the Secretary may enter into guardianship assistance program agreements with a person who is providing a kinship care foster home for a child who is in the custody of the Secretary. K.S.A. 38-2202 defines "kinship care" as the placement of a child in the home of the child's relative or the home of an adult with whom the child has a close emotional attachment. Generally, the financial assistance provided to kinship care foster homes is less than that provided for a typical foster home.

The guardianship assistance program agreement will provide monthly financial assistance at an amount set by the Secretary, but which cannot exceed the amount of monthly financial assistance provided to typical foster homes. The agreement will also provide reimbursement for nonrecurring expenses incurred by the kinship care home in obtaining permanent custody of the child. This includes reasonable attorney fees and courts costs. Such reimbursement cannot exceed \$2,000.

A kinship care provider may continue receiving benefits under a program agreement until the child turns 18, or if certain conditions are met, until the child turns 21. Those conditions are that the child: (1) Regularly attends high school or a program leading to a diploma or GED credential; (2) regularly attends a college or university; (3) participates in a program promoting employment; (4) is employed for at least 80 hours per month; or (5) is incapable of satisfying any of the above conditions due to a medical condition.

If enacted, HB 2754 would become effective on July 1, 2018.