

SRS 2006 Legislation

SB 420 - Kansas Payment Center Clean-Ups

The Governor signed the bill into law on April 3rd.

This bill creates a limited power of attorney that permits the Kansas Payment Center to automatically endorse and deposit support checks payable to individual Non-IV-D (non-SRS) custodial parents or the custodial parent's successor in interest. The proposal also clarifies that the standards for operation of the Kansas Payment Center set forth in K.S.A. 23-4,118 are not limited to outsourced functions.

SB 459 - Recreational Licenses and Repeal of the Child Support Enforcement 1997 Automatic Sunset Provision

SB 62, with SB 459, and provisions from SB 491 that increase the personal needs allowance from \$30 to \$50 in FY 2007 and increases to \$60 for FY 2008 and subsequent years for persons receiving medicaid in a medicaid approved institution passed both the House and Senate on May 10th on votes of 109 to 5 and 36 to 0 respectively. The Governor signed the bill into law on May 23rd.

This bill assures compliance with federal child support enforcement requirements by expanding sanctions against recreational licenses for nonpayment of support. It also repeals a 1997 provision that could automatically sunset many laws of general application related to child support enforcement.

SB 468 - Insurance Match and Intercept and General Child Support Enforcement Related Technical Amendments

Recommended for Interim Study by Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance.

This bill expands existing administrative child support enforcement remedies by creating procedures to identify and intercept insurance proceeds otherwise payable to child support debtors. The proposal also amends existing laws to streamline child support enforcement procedures and eliminate ambiguities.

SB 62 - Grandparents as Caregivers

SB 62, with SB 459, and provisions from SB 491 that increase the personal needs allowance from \$30 to \$50 in FY 2007 and increases to \$60 for FY 2008 and subsequent years for persons receiving medicaid in a medicaid approved institution passed both the House and Senate on May 10th on votes of 109 to 5 and 36 to 0 respectively. The Governor signed the bill into law on May 23rd.

The balloon amendment to SB 62 that is supported by SRS and included in the Governor's Budget Report would establish a payment of \$200 to grandparents or other relative caregivers with legal custody of a child if they are at or below 130.0 percent of the federal poverty level and

are 50 years of age or older. The program would be administered by the Secretary of SRS with funding from the State General Fund.

HB 2706 - Driver's Licenses Restrictions

The Governor signed the bill into law on May 17th.

This bill authorizes SRS to proactively match appropriate child support debtors with KDOR's driver records, and includes access to driver photos. This proposal would make Kansas' existing sanctions against driver's licenses much more effective. Currently, CSE may only restrict driving privileges after the debtor has been found in contempt of court. This severely limits the number of cases where driving sanctions can be used and only targets people who are already intentionally disobeying the law. The goal of this sanction is not to suspend numerous licenses, it is to encourage people to avoid the license sanction by paying their support obligations on time and in full.

HB 2730 (House Sub. for SB 85) - Foster Care Tuition Waiver

The bill was signed by the Governor on April 17th.

This law allows K.S.A. 74-32,161, the Foster Care Tuition Waiver program to sunset and be replaced with a true tuition waiver program. Federal regulations prohibit the use of federal funds for both tuition and other education related expenses. With the enactment of this law, SRS will be able to provide additional funding to youth for other costs of higher education. A provision was included for the law to sunset again in two years.

HB 2760 (SB 506) - Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB)

The bill was signed by the Governor on May 24th.

This will establish a Sex Offender Policy Board within the Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The purpose of the Board, which was a joint proposal on behalf of SRS, the Department of Corrections, and the Juvenile Justice Authority, is to serve as a policy steering entity for the executive and legislative branches of government. Some of the issues the Board will explore are as follows: public notification pertaining to sex offenders, restrictions on the residence of released sex offenders, utilization of electronic monitoring, and management of juvenile sex offenders.

HB 2861 (House Sub. for SB 243) - Waiver of the federal disqualifications against drug offenders receiving certain types of federal assistance from SRS

The Governor signed the bill and it became law on May 4th.

The federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 prohibits persons convicted of the felony possession, use, or distribution of controlled substances from receiving assistance under the TANF and food stamp programs unless the state has elected to exclude this prohibition from the eligibility criteria applicable to its state residents. This law allows the State to exercise the option that needed to be approved through a state statutory

change and required state legislative action. By exercising this option, SRS and the Department of Corrections believe that the eligibility for benefits will assist in the reunification of families and a reduction in recidivism.

Other bills of note:

SB 332 (HB 2722)

The Governor signed the bill into law on May 18, 2006.

The Treasurer will implement and administer a low-income family post-secondary educational savings account incentive program. The program will provide state matching funds by low-income families.

HB 2626

The bill was signed into law on March 23, 2006.

Section 3 of the bill states any person or entity which has legal guardianship of a person or legal custody of a person, or both, pursuant to the Kansas CINC Code, the Kansas juvenile justice code, the care and treatment act for mentally ill persons or the act for obtaining a guardian or conservator, or both, shall notify a law enforcement agency immediately, and in no case later than two hours, if such person is unaccounted for or if such person's location is unknown.

HB 2105-ANE Unit in the Attorney General's Office with provisions on records sharing.

The bill was signed into law on May 15, 2006

This bill establishes a unit in Attorney General's office for abuse, neglect, and exploitation of persons. It requires that the unit have access to all records of reports, investigation documents, and findings related to confirmed cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of persons as well as cases in which there is reasonable suspicion to believe such abuse, neglect, or exploitation occurred.

HB 2352-CINC Code Bill

The bill was signed into law on May 22, 2006

First adopted in 1982, the current code has been revised numerous times. The technical and organizational changes in this bill will facilitate access and understanding of the law.