

Proponent
House Bill No. 2696
Testimony from Richard Johnson
Chief of Police for the University of Kansas Medical Center
2/17/16

To the members of the House Committee on the Judiciary and the honorable Chairman Representative Barker, good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill no. 2696 relating to the jurisdiction of university police officers.

My name is Richard Johnson and I am the Chief of Police at the University of Kansas Medical Center. I have served as a University Police Officer in our state for 31 years. I am here today to ask your support in favor of passing this bill.

The proposed bill will provide a technical fix to the statutes that define the jurisdictional authority for University Police Officers. University Police Officers are defined as police officers under the control and supervision of the Board of Regents and Washburn University. Similarly, Campus police officers are defined as a school security officer designated as a campus police officers – which include police officers employed by Community Colleges and School Districts. In prior legislative action, Campus Police Officers were afforded slightly broader authority than University Police. HB 2696 will update and realign the authority for both categories of law enforcement officers. In addition, the bill clarifies the jurisdiction of the KUMC Police to include The University of Kansas Hospital Authority property. The KUMC Police are responsible for police protection to the KU Hospital; however the law enforcement statute was not updated when the Hospital Authority was created.

The bill is supported by The Board of Regents, The University of Kansas Hospital Authority, The University of Kansas Medical Center, The University Police Chiefs and the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police.

I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.