

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff King at 10:55am on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Pat Pettey – Excused

Senator Forrest Knox – Excused

Committee staff present:

Lauren Douglass, Legislative Research Department

Robert Allison-Gallimore, Legislative Research Department

Natalie Nelson, Legislative Research Department

Suzanne Nelson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Steve Phillips, KS Assistant Attorney General;

Ed Klumpp, Legislative Liaison, Associations for Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, and KS Peace Officers;

Jordan Brewer, Assistant Attorney General;

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau, 29th District, Wichita, KS;

Jennifer Winn, Wichita, KS;

Keri Strahler, Topeka Citizen;

Latisa Micheaux, Wichita Citizen;

Elizabeth Sweeney-Reeder, Miami County Attorney;

Sandra Hiller, Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association;

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Vice-Chair Greg Smith called the meeting to order at 10:55am. He told the committee that Chair King was running late due to a lengthy hearing in another committee.

Hearing on: SB232--Lien filings against public officials; prohibitions; notice; criminal penalties.

Vice-Chair Smith opened the hearing on **SB232**. Jason Thompson gave an overview of the bill.

Assistant Attorney General Steve Phillips presented testimony in support of the bill. He related that bogus liens are wrongful lien filings intended to harass various public officials and employees, often judges, law enforcement officers, county officials, but also various state officials including the Governor. ([Attachment 1](#))

Ed Klumpp testified in support of the bill. He told the committee fraudulent liens are generally found only when a public official tries to sell their property. **SB232** creates measures to require the court to approve the filing of future liens of an individual who previously filed a fraudulent lien. It also creates

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a criminal penalty for knowingly filing a false lien. ([Attachment 2](#))

There being no questions or comments, and no other testimony submitted at this time, Chairperson King closed the hearing on **SB232**.

Hearing on: SB255--Amendments relating to the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products.

Chair King opened the hearing on **SB255**. Jason Thompson gave an overview of the bill. Jason related this bill pertains to amendments to the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

Assistant Attorney General Jordan Brewer presented testimony supporting the bill. The Attorney General uses this statute and others to enforce the terms of the Master Settlement Agreement. ([Attachment 3](#))

Secretary Nick Jordan, Kansas Department of Revenue, submitted written-only proponent testimony. ([Attachment 4](#))

There being no questions or comments, and no other testimony submitted at this time, Chairperson King closed the hearing on **SB255**.

Hearing on: SB204 — Protecting the total amount of time for visitation granted to a person under the revised Kansas code for care of children.

Chair King opened the hearing on **SB204**. Jason Thompson presented an overview of the bill and stood for questions.

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau presented testimony supporting the bill. She referenced a YouTube link in her written testimony and urged the committee to view the video about Marc and Melissa Kemp, and also read the written-only testimony of Vernetta Dixon, a Wichita Social Worker. ([Attachment 5](#))

Jennifer Winn testified in support of **SB204**. She spoke from a child's perspective, having been in the Child In Need of Care (CINC) system. She related that she has been advocating almost two years now. To some, 15 or 20 minutes does not seem like much, but to a child who has been taken away from her parents and grandmother, and given to complete strangers, that full hour of visitation is very important. ([Attachment 6](#))

Keri Strahler spoke in favor of the bill from the perspective of a mother who went through the system and eventually got her children back. ([Attachment 7](#))

Latisa Micheaux spoke in support of the bill from a grandmother's perspective. She elaborated on some issues with DCF about which she disagreed. She related that she currently has four grandchildren in the

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system and is trying to obtain custody of them. ([Attachment 8](#))

Elizabeth Sweeney-Reeder spoke in opposition to **SB204**. She told the committee that she generally is not in favor of new legislation where another remedy is available. Ms. Sweeney-Reeder also believes the proposed wording of the statute leaves too much room for abuse and differing interpretation. ([Attachment 9](#))

Saundra Hiller gave neutral testimony on the bill, with concerns regarding the paragraph beginning with line 42, where a reasonable accommodation shall be made to extend such scheduled visitation, or add time to another scheduled visitation. She concerned this will cause conflict between the parents, foster parents, and members of the child welfare team. ([Attachment 10](#))

The Chair opened the floor for questions of the conferees, comments, and discussion. He also directed attention to all the written-only testimony submitted:

Proponent written-only testimony

Djuan Wash, Sunflower Community Action, Wichita, Kansas ([Attachment 11](#))

Vernetta Dixon, MSW, HealthCore Clinic, Wichita, KS ([Attachment 12](#))

Mary Dean, President, Kansas Justice Advocate, Wichita, KS ([Attachment 13](#))

Neutral written-only testimony

Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary, KS Department for Children and Families (DCF) ([Attachment 14](#))

Dona Booe, President/CEO Kansas Children's Service League ([Attachment 15](#))

There being no further questions, comments, discussion, and no other testimony submitted at this time, the hearing on **SB204** was closed.

Possible action on bills previously heard

There was no action taken on previously heard bills today. Chair King announced that we will work bills tomorrow as follows: **HB2048**, **HB2124**, **HB2256**, **HB2111**, **SB255**, **SB232**, **HB2115**, **Sub HB2159**.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50am. The next meeting will be tomorrow, Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 10:30am.