



Kansas Sheriffs Association

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Senate Committee on Judiciary

Support for SB149

Senator Jeff King, Chairperson

Senator Greg Smith, Vice-Chair

Senator David Haley, Ranking Minority Member

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony today in support of Senate Bill No. 149. I am presenting this written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Sheriff's Association.

We are all aware of the rising costs of maintaining jails in this State. Those costs, as it relates to inmate care, are higher when Sheriffs have special needs individuals such as the mentally ill and the Sexually Violent Predator. The amendment in KSA 2014 Supp.59-29a04 (f) on page 4, lines 20-24, makes it clear that those having custody of these inmates can seek some cost recovery from that individual. This could also include medical care and treatment.

This bill also would provide for the Sexually Violent Predator to petition the Office of Administrative Hearings and not the district court when asking for a transitional release. This could save transportation costs for Kansas Sheriff's. The petitioner's hearing would take place where they are housed as opposed to going back to the county where the offense occurred.

It is important to note that this bill would mandate that the offender participate in treatment. The treatment as it relates to this offender is as important, if not more so, than the savings in transportation to and from district courts. Kansas Sheriff's strongly encourage the passage of these outlined amendments.

Sheriff Frank Denning-Johnson County Sheriff