SESSION OF 2026

SECOND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2651

As Agreed to March 26, 2026

Brief*

HB 2651 would require the issuance of a warrant and prohibit the issuance of a summons for a complaint alleging the commission of a felony. The bill would also prohibit the release of the defendant on the defendant's own recognizance for any bond set on a warrant issued for failing to appear in response to a summons.

The bill would also make technical changes.

Conference Committee Action

The Second Conference Committee agreed to replace the provisions of HB 2651, regarding voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, with the contents of HB 2610, regarding warrants and bond, as passed by the House. [*Note:* The contents of HB 2651 are included in SB 408, as passed by the House.]

Background

The Second Conference Committee agreed to insert the provisions of HB 2610 into HB 2651.

HB 2610

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Judiciary at the request of Representative L. Williams.

House Committee on Judiciary

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative L. Williams and a representative of the Kansas Bail Agents Association (KBAA). The proponents

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*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at https://klrd.gov/

generally stated the bill would require the issuance of a warrant for felony charges to reflect the seriousness of the offense and need for judicial oversight.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Judiciary

In the Senate Committee hearing, Representative L. Williams, the Shawnee County District Attorney, and a representative of the KBAA provided substantially similar **proponent** testimony as that provided in the House Committee hearing.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of Board of Indigents' Defense Services, who explained the benefit of the use of summons, especially when they are used for people charged with low-level felonies.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Sheriffs' Association, a Jackson County District Court Judge, the Sedgwick County District Attorney, and a private citizen. The opponents generally stated the bill is not supported by the Kansas Supreme Court's Ad Hoc Pretrial Justice Task Force recommendations on bond policies; that in many felony cases, the sentence is presumptive probation if convicted; and limiting the use of summons would lead overcrowding in county jails. Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a private citizen and a representative of ACLU of Kansas.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

HB 2610

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2610, as introduced, the Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of the bill would have a negligible fiscal effect on the Judicial Branch that could be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Warrant; summons; felony

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