

Approved: 2-9-98
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Rich Becker at 1:30 p.m. on February 4, 1998 in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Janice Hardenburger
Senator Barbara Lawrence

Committee staff present: Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Graceanna Wood, Committee Secretary

Conferee appearing before the committee: Helen Stephens, Kansas Sheriff's Association
Carla Stovall, Attorney General (Written testimony)

Others attending: See attached list

Helen Stephens, Lobbyist for the Kansas Sheriff's Association advised that the Kansas Sheriff's Association was in favor of **SB 469**. The bill would allow the statute be changed to allow the Sheriff to select the colors and style of his/her agency's uniform. (Attachment #1)

Vice-Chairman Becker read testimony in favor of **SB 469** from Attorney General Carla Stovall. (Attachment #2)

Senator Vidricksen moved this bill be passed, seconded by Senator Praeger. Motion carried.

Senator Steineger moved that the minutes of February 2 and February 3 be approved as written, seconded by Senator Gooch. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. February 5, 1998.



BARTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1416 Kansas

GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530



JIM DAILY
Sheriff

Phone (316) 793-1876
FAX (316) 793-1885

DAN SIMPSON
Undersheriff

Feb. 3, 1998

TO: Janice Hardenberger, Chairman and Committee Members

Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns regarding SB-469.

Since 1970, Sheriff's in the state has had statutory guidelines to follow when selecting uniforms for themselves and their deputies. When these guidelines were developed, a standard color and style were selected so all Sheriff's and deputies would be the same. This was possible, during that time, however over the years it has become more and more difficult to meet those requirements. Uniform manufacturing companies are offering for sale, to Sheriff's Offices, the required colors. These companies have a wide variant of what is construed as the proper color of light blue, French blue, etc.

Because of the inability to meet the requirements we are asking that the statute be changed to allow the Sheriff to select the colors and style of his/her agency's uniform. Keeping the Attorney General approval authority in place, having on file descriptions of the uniform, ensuring it is professional and distinguishable appearance from other law enforcement agencies is absolute.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Daily, Sheriff
Barton County, Ks.

Elec. & Local Gov.
Date: 2-4-98
Attachment: # 1



State of Kansas

Office of the Attorney General

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CARLA J. STOVALL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 3, 1998

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The Honorable Janice Hardenburger
Chairperson, Senate Elections and Local
Government Committee
Room 143-N, State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Senate Bill 469 - Sheriff uniforms

Dear Senator Hardenburger: *Janice*

I support Senate Bill 469 because I believe that sheriffs are in the best position to determine the design and color most suitable for their department's uniforms. The current statute that requires the Attorney General to designate the color and design of sheriffs' uniforms has remained unchanged since 1969, as has the designated color and design for those uniforms. From time to time I receive requests from sheriffs for changes in their department's uniforms. Although those requests have been well-reasoned, I have been unable to grant any deviations because the current law requires uniformity throughout the State. I have not designated any changes knowing that they would necessitate that every sheriff's office in the State make those changes.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for Senate Bill 469 and for your continued cooperation in matters of mutual concern.

Very truly yours,

Carla

Carla J. Stovall
Attorney General of Kansas

CJS:DMV:jm

Elec. & Local Gov.
Date: *2-4-98*
Attachment: # *2*