

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Owens at 9:35 a.m. on February 25, 2010, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Karen Clowers, Committee Assistant

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman called to continue final action on **SB 399 - Controlled substances; aggravated endangering a child; enhanced penalties for distributing on park property and distributing to a child or pregnant person.**

Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Bruce seconded, to adopt the balloon amendment distributed to the Committee at the February 24 meeting. Motion carried.

Senator Kelly moved, Senator Haley seconded, to strike all references to pregnant women. Motion failed.

Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Bruce seconded, to recommend SB 399, as amended, favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The Chairman called for final action on **SB 494 - Providing for the exercise of the functions of sheriff by the undersheriff of a county.**

Senator Vratil distributed a proposed balloon amendment and reviewed the changes. (Attachment 1)

Senator Vratil moved, Senator Schodorf seconded, to amend SB 494 with the proposed balloon, including a change to line 23 to make it gender neutral. Motion carried.

Senator Vratil moved, Senator Lynn seconded, to recommend SB 494, as amended, favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The Chairman called for final action on **SB 522 - Consent to adoption and termination of parental rights; factors to consider in weighing whether a parent must consent to a stepparent adoption; factors to consider when terminating a parent's right.** Jason Thompson, staff revisor, reviewed the bill and distributed a balloon amendment requested by the committee based on proposals by proponent Martin Bauer during the hearing on February 23. (Attachment 2)

Senator Bruce moved, Senator Pilcher-Cook seconded, to refer SB 522 to the Kansas Judicial Council for further review. Motion carried.

The Chairman called for final action on **SB 520 - Employment of county and city prisoners, credit on fines and costs earned.** Senator Vratil requested the bill be passed over until a requested amendment would be available. The bill was passed over.

The Chairman called for final action on **SB 521 - Amending qualifications for secretary of corrections.**

Senator Vratil moved, Senator Donovan seconded, to table SB 521. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO ROUTE TO NEXT GUEST

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: Feb 25, 2010

NAME	REPRESENTING
Loretta Severin	KS Alliance for Drug Endangered Children
DAVID HUTCHINGS	KBI
TROIS LOWE	LITTLE GOV 4 RELATIONS
Jackson Lindsey	Hewlett
SEAN MILLER	CAPITOL STRATEGIES
Mark Stock	KDWP
Levi Henry	Sandstone Group LLC
Sarah King	JTA
JEREMY BARCLAY	KDOC
Jennifer Crow	Children's Alliance
Sarah Gillock	PPKM
Mary Drake	Self
Janie Rose	KCSL
LINE WICK	Jud. Branch
Allison Veeder	Allison Veeder
AM - [Signature]	SKIC
Mike [Signature]	Spekha Independent Living

SENATE BILL No. 494

By Committee on Judiciary

SB494-Balloon-V1.pdf
RS - JThompson - 02/24/10

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9 AN ACT concerning county officers; relating to undersheriffs; amending
10 K.S.A. 19-804a and repealing the existing section.

11
12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. K.S.A. 19-804a is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-
14 804a. ~~Except in those counties operating under the provisions of the con-~~
15 ~~solidated law enforcement act, whenever a vacancy occurs in the office~~
16 ~~of sheriff of any county, the undersheriff of such county shall in all things~~
17 ~~execute the office of sheriff until a sheriff shall be appointed by the gov-~~
18 ~~ernor in the manner provided by law for filling vacancies in the office of~~
19 ~~member of house of representatives.~~ When there shall be no sheriff or
20 undersheriff in an organized any county, it shall be the duty of the county
21 clerk to exercise all the powers and duties of the sheriff of his such clerk's
22 county until a sheriff be elected or qualified; ~~and when~~ the sheriff for any
23 cause shall be committed to the jail of his county, the county clerk shall
24 be keeper thereof during the time the sheriff shall remain a prisoner
25 therein.

Strike

. When

26 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 19-804a is hereby repealed.
27 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
28 publication in the statute book.

FYI only - Text of K.S.A. 19-804

Except in those counties operating under the provisions of consolidated law enforcement acts, whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of sheriff of any county, the undersheriff of such county shall in all things execute the office of sheriff until a sheriff shall be appointed by the governor in the manner provided by law for filling vacancies in the office of member of the house of representatives. If the vacancy occurs on or after May 1 of the second year of the term, the person so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term and until a successor is elected and qualifies. If the vacancy occurs before May 1 of the second year of the term, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve until a successor is elected and qualifies at the next general election to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Nomination and election of such successor shall be in the same manner as nomination and election of a sheriff for a regular term. Any default or misfeasance in office of such undersheriff in the meantime, as well as before such vacancy, shall be deemed to be a breach of the condition of the bond given by the sheriff who appointed the undersheriff, and also a breach of the condition of the bond executed by such undersheriff to the sheriff by whom the undersheriff was appointed.

SENATE BILL No. 522

By Committee on Judiciary

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SB522-Balloon1.pdf
RS - JThompson - 02/24/10

Senate Judiciary
2-25-10
Attachment 2

9 AN ACT concerning stepparent adoptions; relating to consent of a par-
10 ent; amending K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 59-2136 and repealing the existing
11 section.

12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 59-2136 is hereby amended to read as
14 follows: 59-2136. (a) The provisions of this section shall apply where a
15 relinquishment or consent to an adoption has not been obtained from a
16 parent and K.S.A. 59-2124 and 59-2129, and amendments thereto, state
17 that the necessity of a parent's relinquishment or consent can be deter-
18 mined under this section.

19 (b) Insofar as practicable, the provisions of this section applicable to
20 the father also shall apply to the mother and those applicable to the
21 mother also shall apply to the father.

22 (c) In stepparent adoptions under subsection (d), the court may ap-
23 point an attorney to represent any father who is unknown or whose
24 whereabouts are unknown. In all other cases, the court shall appoint an
25 attorney to represent any father who is unknown or whose whereabouts
26 are unknown. If no person is identified as the father or a possible father,
27 the court shall order publication notice of the hearing in such manner as
28 the court deems appropriate.

29 (d) In a stepparent adoption, if a mother consents to the adoption of
30 a child who has a presumed father under subsection (a)(1), (2) or (3) of
31 K.S.A. 38-1114 and amendments thereto, or who has a father as to whom
32 the child is a legitimate child under prior law of this state or under the
33 law of another jurisdiction, the consent of such father must be given to
34 the adoption unless (1) such father has failed or refused to assume the
35 duties of a parent for two consecutive years next preceding the filing of
36 the petition for adoption ~~or~~; (2) the father is incapable of giving such
37 consent; ~~or~~ (3) the father is unfit under subsection (h); and (4) it is in the
38 best interests of the child. In determining whether a father's consent is
39 required under this subsection, the court may disregard incidental visi-
40 tations, contacts, communications or contributions. In determining
41 whether the father has failed or refused to assume the duties of a parent
42 for two consecutive years next preceding the filing of the petition for
43

, under the totality of the circumstances:

or

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1 adoption, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that if the father, after
2 having knowledge of the child's birth, has knowingly failed to provide a
3 substantial portion of the child support as required by judicial decree,
4 when financially able to do so, for a period of two years next preceding
5 the filing of the petition for adoption, then such father has failed or re-
6 fused to assume the duties of a parent. ~~The court may consider the best
7 interests of the child and the fitness of the nonconsenting parent in de-
8 termining whether a stepparent adoption should be granted.~~

9 (e) Except as provided in subsection (d), if a mother desires to relin-
10 quish or consents to the adoption of such mother's child, a petition shall
11 be filed in the district court to terminate the parental rights of the father,
12 unless the father's relationship to the child has been previously termi-
13 nated or determined not to exist by a court. The petition may be filed by
14 the mother, the petitioner for adoption, the person or agency having
15 custody of the child or the agency to which the child has been or is to be
16 relinquished. Where appropriate, the request to terminate parental rights
17 may be contained in a petition for adoption. If the request to terminate
18 parental rights is not filed in connection with an adoption proceeding,
19 venue shall be in the county in which the child, the mother or the pre-
20 sumed or alleged father resides or is found. In an effort to identify the
21 father, the court shall determine by deposition, affidavit or hearing, the
22 following:

23 (1) Whether there is a presumed father under K.S.A. 38-1114 and
24 amendments thereto;

25 (2) whether there is a father whose relationship to the child has been
26 determined by a court;

27 (3) whether there is a father as to whom the child is a legitimate child
28 under prior law of this state or under the law of another jurisdiction;

29 (4) whether the mother was cohabitating with a man at the time of
30 conception or birth of the child;

31 (5) whether the mother has received support payments or promises
32 of support with respect to the child or in connection with such mother's
33 pregnancy; and

34 (6) whether any man has formally or informally acknowledged or de-
35 clared such man's possible paternity of the child. If the father is identified
36 to the satisfaction of the court, or if more than one man is identified as
37 a possible father, each shall be given notice of the proceeding in accord-
38 ance with subsection (f).

39 (f) Notice of the proceeding shall be given to every person identified
40 as the father or a possible father by personal service, certified mail return
41 receipt requested or in any other manner the court may direct. Proof of
42 notice shall be filed with the court before the petition or request is heard.

43 (g) If, after the inquiry, the court is unable to identify the father or

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1 any possible father and no person has appeared claiming to be the father
2 and claiming custodial rights, the court shall enter an order terminating
3 the unknown father's parental rights with reference to the child without
4 regard to subsection (h). If any person identified as the father or possible
5 father of the child fails to appear or, if appearing, fails to claim custodial
6 rights, such person's parental rights with reference to the child shall be
7 terminated without regard to subsection (h).

8 (h) (1) When a father or alleged father appears and asserts parental
9 rights, the court shall determine parentage, if necessary pursuant to the
10 Kansas parentage act. If a father desires but is financially unable to em-
11 ploy an attorney, the court shall appoint an attorney for the father. There-
12 after, the court may order that parental rights be terminated, upon a
13 finding by clear and convincing evidence, of any of the following:

14 (A) The father abandoned or neglected the child after having knowl-
15 edge of the child's birth;

16 (B) the father is unfit as a parent or incapable of giving consent;

17 (C) the father has made no reasonable efforts to support or com-
18 municate with the child after having knowledge of the child's birth;

19 (D) the father, after having knowledge of the pregnancy, failed with-
20 out reasonable cause to provide support for the mother during the six
21 months prior to the child's birth;

22 (E) the father abandoned the mother after having knowledge of the
23 pregnancy;

24 (F) the birth of the child was the result of rape of the mother; or

25 (G) the father has failed or refused to assume the duties of a parent
26 for two consecutive years next preceding the filing of the petition; ~~and~~

27 (H) ~~it is in the best interest of the child.~~

28 (2) In making a finding whether parental rights shall be terminated
29 under this subsection, the court may: ~~(A) Consider and weigh the best~~
30 ~~interest of the child, and (B) disregard incidental visitations, contacts,~~
31 ~~communications or contributions.~~

32 (3) In determining whether the father has failed or refused to assume
33 the duties of a parent for two consecutive years next preceding the filing
34 of the petition for adoption, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that
35 if the father, after having knowledge of the child's birth, has knowingly
36 failed to provide a substantial portion of the child support as required by
37 judicial decree, when financially able to do so, for a period of two years
38 next preceding the filing of the petition for adoption, then such father
39 has failed or refused to assume the duties of a parent.

40 (i) A termination of parental rights under this section shall not ter-
41 minate the right of the child to inherit from or through the parent. Upon
42 such termination, all the rights of birth parents to such child, including
43 their right to inherit from or through such child, shall cease.

or

under the totality of the circumstances,

interests

- 1 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 59-2136 is hereby repealed.
- 2 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
- 3 publication in the statute book.

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