

KANSAS OFFICE *of*  
**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

---

300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

---

**MEMORANDUM**

To: House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice  
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Date: February 11, 2025  
Subject: Bill Brief for HB 2327 (As Introduced)

House Bill 2327 establishes procedures and requirements for the secretary of corrections to issue a certificate of employability to certain inmates.

The bill creates a new section of law that requires the secretary, upon release of an inmate from custody, to identify the educational and training history of the inmate. The secretary shall issue a certificate of employability to such inmate if: (1) Prior to incarceration or while incarcerated, such inmate earned a high school diploma, a general educational development credential, a college degree, certification from a vocational or technical education program or a diploma or degree from a correspondence postsecondary education program; (2) such inmate received no major disciplinary violations during the year immediately preceding release; and (3) such inmate received the necessary score on a job skills assessment test as determined by the secretary.

The secretary shall revoke a certificate of employability from an inmate if such inmate is convicted of a felony after release from custody. An inmate whose certificate of employability has been revoked may appeal such decision to the secretary. The secretary shall not be liable for damages based on the secretary's decision to issue, deny or revoke a certificate of employability.

The secretary shall make all inmates aware of the opportunity to obtain a certificate of employability and, upon request, shall confirm whether or not a certificate of employability has been issued to a particular inmate. An inmate shall not state or represent oneself as having been issued a valid certificate of employability knowing that such statement or representation is false. Violation of this paragraph is a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

In a proceeding involving a claim against an employer for negligent hiring: (1) Having relied on a certificate of employability issued pursuant to this section may be a defense to such claim; and (2) a certificate of employability issued pursuant to this section may be admitted as evidence of the employer's due care in hiring the inmate.

Prior to January 15, 2026, and each January 15 thereafter, the secretary shall submit a report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate that includes: (1) The number of certificates of employability issued during the preceding year; and (2) the rate of recidivism among inmates who received a certificate of employability.

The bill would take effect from and after publication in the statute book, July 1, 2025.