

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kellie Warren at 10:30 am on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Barbara Moore, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Natalie Nelson, Legislative Research Department
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Walter Nelson, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Michael Lucci, Chief Executive Officer, State Armor
Lee K. Levy II, American Global Strategies
Aaron M. Popelka, V.P. of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Kansas Livestock Association
Jacqueline Deal Ph.D., State Armor Advisory Board
Stephen Kouba, Government Relations Manager, Smithfield Foods
Brett Fairchild, Kansas House of Representatives, 113th District
Dave Peck, on behalf of Evergy, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Kansas Municipal Utilities, Liberty Utilities and NextEra
Kimberly Gencur Svaty, Public Policy Director, Kansas Power Alliance

Others in attendance:

No list available

Informational briefing:

Chairwoman Warren opened the Informational Briefing on **SB9**.

Natalie Scott, Revisor's Office provided an overview of the bill and stood for questions. ([Attachment 1](#))

Michael Lucci, Chief Executive Officer, State Armor, provided information on the bill. He stated **SB9** is one of the essential solutions to achieve state security. States must protect critical infrastructure through securing their telecommunication grid, protecting commercial and agricultural property, particularly near military bases and other critical infrastructure. ([Attachment 2](#))

Lee K. Levy II, American Global Strategies, provided information on the bill. He stated it has become apparent that our country needs a national strategy and response to sufficiently protect American citizens and keep our economy secure. While components of a national response to this rising threat, like those involving the military, must take place at the federal level. ([Attachment 3](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Judiciary at 10:30 am on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

Aaron M. Popelka, V.P. of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Kansas Livestock Association, provided neutral information on the bill. They believe this matter should be left to the federal government, we understand that some may want the State of Kansas to take a position in the interest of national and state security. ([Attachment 4](#))

Jacqueline Deal Ph.D., State Armor Advisory Board provided information on the bill. She stated that no one from Kansas could own any land in China or sell American-made drones there. We have to start imposing costs or creating restrictions here rather than continuing to enable CCP inroads in our democracy. ([Attachment 5](#))

Stephen Kouba, Government Relations Manager, Smithfield Foods, provided information on the bill. He stated Smithfield Foods is opposed to the legislation as currently written. They believe the issue of foreign investment and its relationship to national security is a power best exercised by the federal government. ([Attachment 6](#))

No further conferees.

Conferees stood for questions.

Chairwoman Warren closed the information hearing on **SB9**.

Informational briefing:

Chair opened the informational briefing on Government agencies, public utilities and other entities when exercising the power of eminent domain for recreational trails and park and recreational facilities.

Natalie Scott, Revisor;s Office, provided an overview of eminent domain. ([Attachment 7](#)), ([Attachment 8](#))

Brett Fairchild, Kansas House of Representatives, 113th District, provided information on eminent domain as it is a big issue in his district. Many people have been concerned about the proposed transmission lines going through Kansas. ([Attachment 9](#))

Dave Peck, on behalf of Evergy, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Kansas Municipal Utilities, Liberty Utilities and NextEra, shared information in regards to the utility industry's engagement with Kansas landowners when procuring rights-of-way for vital electrical infrastructure. ([Attachment 10](#))

Kimberly Gencur Svaty, Public Policy Director, Kansas Power Alliance, provided information on what their member companies do to ensure that their projects offer strong landowner rights and protections, minimize impacts; and offer competitive compensation. ([Attachment 11](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Judiciary at 10:30 am on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

Tammy Hammond, CEO and Founder, Rosewood Services, Inc, provided written information.
([Attachment 12](#))

No further conferees.

Conferees stood for questions.

Chairwoman closed the informational briefing.

Possible Final Action on bills previously heard

Final Action on **SB242 - Requiring that a political subdivision hold an open meeting to discuss a contingency fee contract for legal services before approving such contract and requiring the attorney general to approve such contracts.**

Natalie Scott gave a brief summary of the bill and stood for questions.

Chairwoman Warren submitted an amendment on behalf of the Attorney General's office. Natalie Scott provided an overview of the amendment. ([Attachment 13](#))

Chairwoman Warren moved to adopt the amendment, Senator Rykman seconded. Motion carried.

Final Action on **HB2228 - Requiring the secretary of corrections to assist inmates with obtaining identification and employment related documentation prior to release from custody.**

*Chairwoman Warren moved, Senator Klemp seconded, to remove the contents from **HB2228** and insert the contents from **SB242** and rename the the bill **Senate Substitute HB2228**. Motion Carried.*

*Vice Chair Titus moved, Senator Bowser seconded to recommend **Senate Substitute HB2228** , favorable for passage. Motion carried.*

Chairwoman Warren gave thanks to all for the work completed this session.

Meeting adjourned 11:58 a.m.