

Approved

Date: January 18, 2001

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Vratil at 9:39 a.m. on January 17, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Haley (excused)

Committee staff present:

Gordon Self, Revisor  
Mike Heim, Research  
Mary Blair, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Paul Davis, Kansas Bar Association (KBA)  
Judge Paul Miller, Chair, Kansas Sentencing Commission  
Barbara Conan, Director of Public Affairs, Kansas Trial Lawyers Association (KTLA)

Others attending: see attached list

Minutes of January 16, 2001 were approved on a motion by Senator Donovan, seconded by Senator Adkins. Carried.

Conferee Davis presented a joint request by the KBA and the KTLA to introduce a bill which would guarantee Kansans access to their medical records and assure that those records are available at a reasonable cost. (attachment 1) Senator Gilstrap moved to introduce the bill, Senator Goodwin seconded. Carried.

Conferee Miller presented an overview of the Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSC). He stated that the purpose of the formation of the KSC by the legislature was to write sentencing guidelines to eliminate sentencing disparity in the prison population and he detailed the Commission's history, statutory charge, structure and function. (a copy of the Sentencing Guidelines and related statutes are available in the legislative research department at the capitol) The Committee received a copy of the sentencing grid which the Conferee also detailed. (attachment 2) Discussion followed regarding recent controversy over the effectiveness of the guidelines and the request for a moratorium on any changes to the guidelines until their effectiveness can be fully appraised. Senator Oleen updated the Committee on the status of this issue which is currently before the Senate.

Conferee Conan gave a very brief overview of the KTLA and stood for questions. She stated that other than the cooperative effort between the KBA and KTLA on the above mentioned bill request, KTLA had no further legislative requests. (no attachment)

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is January 18, 2001.