

Law Enforcement Authority for Certain Juvenile Justice Authority Employees; HB 2496

HB 2496 amends the definition of "police officer" and "law enforcement officer" within the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Act to include special investigators of the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) and any JJA employee employed solely to perform correctional, administrative, or operational duties related to juvenile correctional facilities. Further, it gives the Commissioner of JJA authority to appoint and designate special investigators and to adopt rules and regulations to govern training required for special investigators. The special investigators will have the power and authority of peace and police officers and the authority to make arrests; conduct searches and seizures; maintain custody, security, and control of any person in the Commissioner's custody; and generally enforce State criminal law. Each special investigator will be vested with law enforcement authority, be in the classified service under the Kansas Civil Service Act, and be subject to the requirements of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Act. To carry a firearm, special investigators will have to complete the required law enforcement officer training courses.