

Ombudsman of Corrections; Topeka Correctional Facility; HB 2704

HB 2704 amends the statutory provision allowing the Secretary of Corrections (Secretary) to order an offender discharged from the prison portion of a sentence if a minimal amount of time remains to be served at the time the Secretary receives notice of the transfer of the prisoner to the custody of the Secretary. Specifically, the permissible time remaining on the sentence is increased from 10 to 20 days.

Additionally, it repeals statutory provisions concerning the Ombudsman of Corrections (Ombudsman). The statutes relate to:

- Open records (KSA 45-221);
- Provision of necessary personnel and accounting services by the Secretary of Corrections to the Office of the Ombudsman (KSA 74-7402);
- Appointment, compensation, office space, and support employees for the Ombudsman, and the duties and functions of the Ombudsman (KSA 74-7403);
- Authority of the Ombudsman to have access to correctional institutions and other inmate housing (KSA 74-7404);
- Conditions under which the records in the possession of the Ombudsman, or any employee of the Ombudsman, may be made available to the Kansas Department of Corrections (KSA 74-7406); and
- Authority of the Ombudsman to administer oaths (KSA 74-7407).

The bill also repeals statutes concerning the role of the Topeka Correctional Facility (Facility) as the reception and diagnostic facility. The statutes relate to the:

- Primary function and purpose of the Facility with regard to the delivery of offenders and the examination and study of all felony offenders sentenced by the courts to the custody of the Secretary of Corrections (KSA 75-5262);
- Appointment of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, chaplains, and other officers and employees by the warden of the Facility, as approved by the Secretary of Corrections (KSA 75-5263);
- Authority of the Secretary of Corrections to make requisitions to any warden of a state correctional institution for the transfer of an inmate to the Facility for examination, study, and subsequent confinement assignment (KSA 75-5264), or for the purpose of performing work at the Facility (KSA 75-5265);
- Sheriff's conveyance of offenders to the Facility (KSA 75-5220); and

- Scientific examination and study of women sentenced to the custody of the Secretary of Corrections in a manner substantially similar to that provided for in KSA 75-5262 (KSA 75-5229).