

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Doug Mays at 1:40 p.m. on February 14, 2002 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Judy Morrison, Excused
Representative Tony Powell, Excused

Committee staff present: Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Shelia Pearman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Rep. Bob Bethel
Sheriff Steve Bundy, Rice County
Deputy Danny Evans, Rice County
Charles Bloss, Jr.
Dave Reavis, State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police
Don Woolery, State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police
Dennis Shell, Retired Officer

Others attending: See attached list

Without objection, bill was introduced as requested by Representative Ethel Peterson regarding resolution of impasses in public employer-employee disputes. [HB 2825]

Without objection, bill was introduced as requested by Representative Williams regarding time of election canvass by county board of canvassers. [HB 2996]

Chairman Mays opened the hearing on HB 2643 - Use of silencers by certain law enforcement officers. Representative Bethell stated during a ride with Deputy Evans he learned there is an increased risk of explosion if a shot is fired during a methamphetamine raid without a firearm suppressor. He urged the committee to support HB 2643 to increase the safety for those who enforce our laws as they attempt to curtail illegal activity in Kansas. (Attachment #1)

Sheriff Bundy expressed the potential **HB 2643** has to save lives in the law enforcement community and the public sector via the use of firearm silencers. He stated this equipment offers the capability of minimizing the risk of explosion and possible death to citizens, in the hands of trained professionals. (Attachment #2)

Deputy Evans discussed the advantages of silencers to law enforcement and society in various conditions and urged the committee's support of **HB 2643**. (Attachment #3)

The hearing on HB 2643 was closed.

Chairman Mays opened the hearing on HB 2796 - Retired law enforcement officer allowed to carry concealed firearm. Mr. Bloss request that retired law enforcement officers be able to legally carry firearms by updating to K.S.A. 21-4201. This would provide more armed, trained, experienced law enforcement officers at no additional cost. These individuals annually obtained 40 hours annually in service training during employment and must following retirement must qualify annually with their firearms. (Attachment #4)

Mr. Reavis with more than 31 years of service stated his support of **HB 2796** with additional comments related to increased safety for the former officer and their family due to the wide range of cases they have experienced as law enforcement officers. (Attachment #5)

Mr. Shell rose in support of **HB 2796** because it would permit retired police officers like himself to assist in circumstances where needed without personal fear of liability.

Written testimony in support of **HB 2796** was submitted by the Roeland Park Chief of Police Frank Denning on behalf of Kansas Peace Officers' Association citing a retired officer maintains firearms

qualifications and should be honored with carrying a concealed firearm without apprehension of violating current state statute. (Attachment #6)

Written testimony in opposition of **HB 2796** was submitted by Safe State Kansas because it would give special privileges to a minority group while circumventing carefully considered laws that protect the health and safety of communities in the state. (Attachment #7)

The hearing on **HB 2796** was closed.

The committee meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is February 18 , 2002.