

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Edmonds at 1:30 P.M. on February 2, 2005 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Kenny Wilk- excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Carol Doel, Committee Secretary

Conferees:

Rep. David Huff  
Chief Ellen Hanson  
Capt. Steve Smith  
Corporal Fred Farris, Lenexa Police Department

Others attending:

See attached list

Chairman Edmonds called the meeting to order and opened the floor for bill introductions.

Representative Dillmore requested introduction of a version of **SB 77** a racial profiling bill.

With no objection, the bill was accepted for introduction.

Representative Mah requested introduction of a bill that would removes the earning limitations of KPERs retirees.

With no objection, the bill was accepted for introduction.

Representative Novascone requested introduction of a bill concerning purchases of wine in the state.

With no objection, the bill was accepted for introduction.

Representative Brunk requested introduction of a bill regarding the victims of unborn violence act.

With no objection, the bill was accepted for introduction.

Chairman Edmonds opened the meeting for public hearing on **HB 2033** a bill relating to criminal use of weapons such as stun guns and Tasers and recognized Representative Huff.

Representative Huff presented testimony before the committee in support of **HB 2033**. His testimony related that stun guns and Tasers are solely for the purpose of incapacitating an individual for a few seconds. These devices could be used against any person, even a police officer, to gain control for those few seconds. Users could take an officers weapon or perform a quick robbery. Representative Huff stated that he sees no reason why a private citizen would need such an apparatus. (Attachment 1) The Representative also included in his presentation a copy of an article regarding the use of a stun gun in a Kansas City store robbery (Attachment 2), a copy of the penal codes affecting air Tasers, (Attachment 3) and a copy of a questionnaire that he had submitted to his district regarding the use of Taser guns by private citizens. (Attachment 4)

Next to address the committee in support of **HB 2033** was Corporal Fred Farris of the Lenexa, Kansas Police Department. Corporal Farris has been in law enforcement for fifteen years and currently is the lead instructor for less-lethal weapons for the Lenexa Police Department. He stated that the Tasers and stun guns were designed to give law enforcement the ability to handle drug induced, extremely focused, emotionally disturbed, or violent individuals that didn't necessarily fall under the category of lethal force justification.

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Corporal Farris described the Taser and M26 as weapons that fire two weighted barbs delivering a five second, 50,000 volt charge that disrupts both the sensory and motor nervous system.

Corporal Farris related that he cannot teach officers to fight when completely incapacitated. He urged the support of **HB 2033**. (Attachment 5)

Next to request support of **HB 2033** was Captain Steve Smith of the Lenexa Kansas Police Department who has been in law enforcement for thirty-one years. Captain Smith is also nationally recognized as an instructor on Special Weapons & Tactics for the International Association of Chiefs of Police and is on the National Tactical Officers Association Board of Directors. The Captain stated that the need for this legislation exists because the threat exists. Seven states and the District of Columbia have already banned the sale or use of Tasers by civilians and he asked that Kansas join these governments in protecting those who protect us. (Attachment 6)

Chief of Police Ellen Hanson, Lenexa, Kansas also addressed the committee in support of **HB 2033**. Chief Hanson expressed her concern that these weapons present a significant danger to the general public and they create a whole new classification of potential crime victims. It is also important to note that they serve no useful purpose in the hands of any person except those enforcing the law. Chief Hanson also stated that recently the Kansas Association of Chief of Police voted unanimously to support this legislation.

There were no other person wishing to address **HB 2033** and with no further business before the committee Chairman Edmonds adjourned the meeting.