

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael R. O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. on March 20, 2003 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Pauls Davis - Excused  
Representative Tom Klein - Excused  
Representative Dean Newton - Excused  
Representative Michael O'Neal - Excused  
Representative Rick Rehorn - Excused  
Representative Dan Williams - Excused

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Steve Morris  
Terry Maas, Hugoton  
Robert Johnson, Stevens County Attorney  
Martha Coffman, Individual  
Ed Collister, Kansas Bar Association

The hearing on **SB 91 - law enforcement training center, qualifications & officer training requirements**, was opened.

Senator Steve Morris requested the bill on behalf of Mr. Mass who is a Canadian citizen working towards his U.S. citizenship. He works in the law enforcement field and would like to attend the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center to become a sheriffs officer. The bill would amend the statute to make it specific to allow Mr. Mass to attend the training center. (Attachment 1)

Terry Maas, Hugoton informed the committee of the law enforcement type jobs he's held since moving to the United States. He currently works in the jail of the Stevens County Sheriff's Department and is a City Reserve Officer. To become a sheriffs officer, he would need to attend the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and is not allowed to do so because he is not a citizen of the United States. (Attachment 2)

Robert Johnson, Stevens County Attorney, has known Mr. Mass for a period of five years and believes that Stevens County would benefit from him becoming a sheriffs officer. He has the support of all three Stevens County Commissioners and they see the situation of hiring law enforcement officers in Stevens County differently from other areas of the state. It's had to find individuals who are willing and qualified individuals to perform the duties of an law enforcement officer. (Attachment 3)

Written testimony in support of the bill was provided by Eric Smith, Attorney (Attachment 4).

The hearing on **SB 91** was closed.

The hearing on **SB 206 - one year time limitations on writs of habeas corpus**, continued.

Martha Coffman, Individual, (Attachment 5) appeared before the committee as an opponent to the bill for the following reasons;

- the work of the courts would increase

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE at 3:30 p.m. on March 20, 2003 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

- restricting the review of newly discovered evidence must be brought within two years after the final judgement
- placing restrictions on the use of habeas corpus violates section 8 of the Kansas Bill of Rights.

Ed Collister, Kansas Bar Association, (Attachment 6) appeared before the committee in opposition to the bill because it would add additional legal work for prosecutors, lawyers and judges, it would not stop frivolous motions and would not prevent future filings that cause victims anguish.

Written testimony in opposition of the bill was provided by Randall Hodgkinson, Attorney, Topeka (Attachment 7).

The committee meeting adjourned. The next meeting was scheduled from March 24, 2003.