

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. on March 18, 2004 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Rick Rehorn- excused
Representative Dale Swenson- excused
Representative Dan Williams- excused
Representative Kevin Yoder- excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Diana Lee, Revisor of Statutes
Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy O'Neal, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Kyle Smith, Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Sgt. Randy Cole, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office
Tim Madden, Kansas Department of Corrections, Legal Counsel
Ed Klumpp, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police

The hearing on **SB 432 - applicants to be a law enforcement officer required to disclose criminal records**, was opened.

Kyle Smith, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, stated that this bill was designed to ensure a higher standard of law enforcement agents in Kansas. Kansas law prohibits a convicted felon from serving as a law enforcement official but does not allow the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Commission to do background checks. The ability to do so would ensure quality law enforcement agents across the state. (Attachment 1)

Sgt. Randy Cole, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, echoed Mr. Smith in that it's hard to get personal information they need in order to determine if the person applying for the job meets all the qualifications. (Attachment 2)

Tim Madden, Kansas Department of Corrections, Legal Counsel, believed that the bill was good public policy and requested that "law enforcement officer" be defined as found in K.S.A. 22-2202 & 74-5602. (Attachment 3)

Ed Klumpp, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, commented that they spend 30-40 hours on one background check and then might only know the date that the person left their previous job but not the reason why. This would allow law enforcement to use their time more efficiently. (Attachment 4).

The hearing on **SB 432** was closed.

The committee meeting adjourned. The next meeting was scheduled for March 29, 2004.