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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Brunk
Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor

Date: January 26, 2015

Subject: HB 2007 – Creating a law enforcement mutual aid region for critical incidents

House Bill No. 2007 authorizes law enforcement agencies within the law enforcement mutual aid region to provide assistance to other law enforcement agencies in another jurisdiction during critical incidents. This would primarily be a tool to allow Kansas and Missouri law enforcement agencies on either side of the state line to assist each other during critical incidents.

The law enforcement mutual aid region is defined to include the Kansas counties of Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte, and the Missouri counties of Platte, Clay, Ray, Jackson, and Cass. Under the bill, law enforcement agencies in these counties could be called on to provide assistance during a critical incident. A critical incident is broadly defined as one that could result in serious physical injury or loss of life.

The mutual aid request will be made by the on-scene incident commander. The on-scene incident commander is the individual designated as such pursuant to the National Incident Management System, which is a national standardized system of critical incident management. While the on-scene incident commander is in command of the incident until authority is otherwise transferred to another person, the bill provides that all responding law enforcement officers are deemed employees of their respective agencies while performing any services under the bill and all pertinent employment laws shall be interpreted accordingly.

If enacted, the bill would become effective upon publication in the Kansas Register.