



Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas

Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Benefits

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Working after Retirement

Written Testimony by:

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Chairman King, Vice Chair Johnson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on provisions of SB 168, regarding working after retirement. This measure passed during the 2016 legislation session, and took effect on July 1, 2016. After careful review, the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) would like to share with the Committee some potential obstacles that may arise in the future.

There are several groups of employees or contractors that work with DCF that may be impacted in ways that could necessitate further review of this law. A couple of specific situations bear mentioning to the Committee. The first situation includes former State employees who now work for the private contractors that currently manage the majority of our foster care system. We believe that proper interpretation of the law by KPERS staff could result in resolving this matter, given that there are not employees at DCF who currently perform the tasks the contractors perform (foster care case management).

The second situation includes State employees currently contracting with the agency to complete the KEES project. Since the start of the KEES project, several employees reached their optimal KPERS retirement date and elected to retire from classified positions within their state agencies. The KEES project offered retirees the opportunity to finish the project as contractors, given the need to retain their institutional knowledge as we approach the completion of this project.

We will continue to monitor this situation and, if needed, return to this committee if further action is necessary. Thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.