



Kansas Criminal Justice Information System

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January 21, 2015

Support of SB14, Kansas Criminal Justice Information Systems Line Fund

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Senator King, and Committee Members:

The Kansas Criminal Justice Information Systems (KCJIS) Committee requested this bill to address a very urgent funding matter. This is to address a shortfall in funding for the data lines the KCJIS Committee is required to supply to each county under KSA 74-5702(b). The fund is authorized under the provisions of KSA 74-5707. The source of the funding is through a formula for distribution of traffic fine receipts found in KSA 74-7336. It is this statute, KSA 74-7336, we are seeking to amend.

These lines are the life lines for the KCJIS systems connection from local counties. It not only allows for the sharing of information between agencies, but also for the submission of criminal justice data to the central repository. The most critical use of these lines is the connection for local law enforcement to make queries into the state and national databases of wanted persons, stolen items, and a myriad of other critical information sources. This makes these lines essential to public safety and to officer safety.

In 2010, when this fund and funding source provision was enacted the actual cost of the lines was not known since implementation was contingent on the approval of funding. During the last four-and-a-half years, the lines have been implemented and costs are now known, at least through the rest of the contract period for the lines. The total line costs are exceeding the revenue generated by KSA 74-7336. This is partially due to underestimation of the line costs and partially due to a decrease in traffic fines. That amendment in 2010 was designed to transfer the funding from the KBI and KHP general fund budgets to a specific funding source whereby the traffic violators were in essence paying for the line. It also was designed to provide increased funding for higher capacity lines to replace what was generally phone modem capacity lines prior to this change.

The KCJIS Committee has explored options to reduce these costs including exploring the line use for each county and the potential to drop lines that are not being used. We are proceeding with those efforts but it will require the development of regulations establishing levels of usage to justify the state supplied lines. This is not as simple as it sounds, as some counties depend on the line as their back-up line which reflects as low usage statistics. It does not appear this will generate significant savings as most lines are in use.

The requested increase from 2.91% to 4.4% is estimated to increase the funds received from \$507,215 in FY14 to \$769,567. The current cost of the lines are \$746,759 per year. It is worth noting that KSA 74-5707 restricts the use of these funds to pay only for these lines, therefore any unused funds would be available for return to the general fund.

We respectfully request the committee's consideration to recommend this bill favorably for passage.