

HOUSE BILL No. 2548

By Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

1-27

1 AN ACT concerning sureties; relating to justification and approval;
2 amending K.S.A. 22-2806 and repealing the existing section.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. K.S.A. 22-2806 is hereby amended to read as follows: 22-
6 2806. Every *uncompensated* surety, except an insurance company
7 authorized to transact business pursuant to ~~subsection (d)~~ of K.S.A. 40-
8 1102(d), and amendments thereto, shall justify by affidavit and may be
9 required to describe in the affidavit the property by which such surety
10 proposes to justify and the encumbrances thereon, the number and amount
11 of other bonds and undertakings for bail entered into by such surety and
12 remaining undischarged and all such surety's other liabilities. No bond
13 shall be approved unless the *uncompensated* surety appears to be qualified.
14 The appearance bond and the *uncompensated* sureties may be approved
15 and accepted by a judge of the court where the action is pending or by the
16 sheriff of the county.

17 New Sec. 2. (a) As used in this section:

18 (1) "Compensated surety" means any person who or entity that, as
19 surety, issues appearance bonds for compensation, is responsible for any
20 forfeiture and is liable for appearance bonds written by such person's or
21 entity's authorized agents. A compensated surety is either an insurance
22 agent surety or a property surety.

23 (2) "Insurance agent surety" means a compensated surety licensed by
24 the insurance commissioner to issue surety bonds or appearance bonds in
25 this state and who represents an authorized insurance company. An
26 insurance agent surety may have other insurance agent sureties working
27 with or for such surety.

28 (3) "Property surety" means a compensated surety who secures
29 appearance bonds by property pledged as security. A property surety may
30 be a person or entity, and may authorize bail agents to act on behalf of the
31 property surety in writing appearance bonds.

32 (4) "Bail agent" means a person authorized by a compensated surety
33 to execute surety bail bonds on such surety's behalf.

34 (b) Every compensated surety shall submit an application to the chief
35 judge of the judicial district, or the chief judge's designee, in each judicial
36 district where such surety seeks to act as a surety. A compensated surety

1 shall not act as a surety in such judicial district prior to approval of such
2 application.

3 (1) The application shall include, but is not limited to, the following
4 information for each insurance agent surety, property surety or bail agent:

5 (A) A copy of the applicant's Kansas driver's license or nondriver's
6 identification card;

7 (B) a statement, made under penalty of perjury, that the applicant is a
8 resident of this state and is not prohibited by K.S.A. 22-2809a(c), and
9 amendments thereto, from acting as a surety;

10 (C) a certificate of continuing education compliance in accordance
11 with subsection (f).

12 (2) The application for each insurance agent surety also shall include:

13 (A) A copy of the qualifying power of attorney certificates issued to
14 such surety by any insurance company;

15 (B) a current and valid certificate of license from the insurance
16 department; and

17 (C) a current and valid certificate of authority from the insurance
18 department.

19 (3) The application for each property surety also shall include:

20 (A) A list of all bail agents authorized by such property surety to
21 write appearance bonds on such property surety's behalf and all
22 documentation from such bail agents demonstrating compliance with
23 subsection (b)(1); and

24 (B) an affidavit describing the property by which such property surety
25 proposes to justify its obligations and the encumbrances thereon, and all
26 such surety's other liabilities. The description shall include a valuation of
27 the property described therein. If the valuation is not readily evident, an
28 appraisal of the property may be required and, if required, shall be
29 incorporated into the affidavit.

30 (c) A property surety authorized to act as a surety in a judicial district
31 pursuant to subsection (b) shall be allowed outstanding appearance bonds
32 not to exceed an aggregate amount which is 15 times the valuation of the
33 property described in subsection (b)(3). Such property surety shall not
34 write any single appearance bond that exceeds 35% of the total valuation
35 of the property described in subsection (b)(3).

36 (d) (1) Each judicial district may, by local rule, require additional
37 information from any compensated surety and establish what property is
38 acceptable for bonding purposes under subsection (b)(3).

39 (2) A judicial district shall not require any compensated surety to
40 apply for authorization in such judicial district more than once per year,
41 but may require additional reporting from any compensated surety in its
42 discretion. If the judicial district does not require an annual application,
43 each compensated surety or bail agent shall provide a certificate of

1 continuing education compliance in accordance with subsection (f) to the
2 judicial district each year.

3 (3) A judicial district shall not assess any fee or charge related to a
4 compensated surety's application to act as a surety in such judicial district.

5 (4) A judicial district shall not decline authorization for a
6 compensated surety solely on the basis of type of compensated surety.

7 (e) (1) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the chief
8 judge of the judicial district, or the chief judge's designee, to authorize any
9 compensated surety to act as a surety in such judicial district if the judge
10 or designee finds, in such person's discretion, that such authorization is not
11 warranted.

12 (2) If such authorization is granted, the chief judge of the judicial
13 district, or the chief judge's designee, may terminate or suspend the
14 authorization at any time.

15 (A) If the authorization is suspended for 30 days or more, the judge
16 or designee shall make a record describing the length of the suspension
17 and the underlying cause and provide such record to the surety. Such
18 surety, upon request, shall be entitled to a hearing within 30 days after the
19 suspension is ordered.

20 (B) If the authorization is terminated, the judge or designee shall
21 make a record describing the underlying cause and provide such record to
22 the surety. Such surety, upon request, shall be entitled to a hearing within
23 30 days after the termination is ordered.

24 (3) If an authorized compensated surety does not comply with the
25 continuing education requirements in subsection (f), the chief judge of the
26 judicial district, or the chief judge's designee, may allow a conditional
27 authorization to continue acting as a surety for 90 days. If such
28 compensated surety does not comply with the continuing education
29 requirements in subsection (f) within 90 days, such conditional
30 authorization shall be terminated and such compensated surety shall not
31 act as a surety in such judicial district.

32 (f) (1) Every compensated surety shall obtain at least eight hours of
33 continuing education credits during each 12-month period beginning on
34 January 1, 2017.

35 (2) The Kansas bail agents association shall either provide or contract
36 for a minimum of eight hours of continuing education classes to be held at
37 least once annually in each congressional district and may provide
38 additional classes in its discretion. A schedule of such classes shall be
39 publicly available. The association shall not charge more than \$250
40 annually for the eight hours of continuing education classes, and the cost
41 of any class with less than eight hours of continuing education shall be
42 prorated accordingly. Any fee charged for attending continuing education
43 classes shall not be increased or decreased based upon a compensated

1 surety's membership or lack of membership in the association.

2 (3) Upon completion of at least eight hours of continuing education
3 credits during each 12-month period by a compensated surety, the Kansas
4 bail agents association shall issue a certificate of continuing education
5 compliance to such surety. The certificate shall be prepared and delivered
6 to the compensated surety within 30 days of such surety's completion of
7 the continuing education requirements. The certificate shall show in detail
8 the dates and hours of each course attended, along with the signature of the
9 Kansas bail agents association official attesting that all continuing
10 education requirements have been completed.

11 (4) Any continuing education credits used to comply with conditional
12 authorization pursuant to subsection (e)(3) shall not be applied towards
13 compliance in the current 12-month period or any subsequent 12-month
14 period.

15 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 22-2806 is hereby repealed.

16 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
17 publication in the statute book.