

Approved: March 8, 2006

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Edmonds at 1:30 P.M. on February 15, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Ann Mah- excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Carol Doel, Committee Secretary

Conferees:

Representative Melody Miller  
Don Jordan, Juvenile Justice Authority  
Joshanna Smart, Kansas African American Affairs Commission  
Joaquin Sumaya  
Ron Pascal, Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office

Others attending:

See attached list

Chairman Edmonds opened the floor for bill introductions and introduced Kevin Graham appearing on behalf of the Attorney General who wished a bill introduced that would create within the Attorney General's Office the Kansas Crime Stoppers Council.

With no objections this was accepted for introduction.

The Chair opened the public hearing on the **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE for HB 2724** and introduced Representative Melody Miller testifying in support of the bill. Representative Miller opined that the **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE for HB 2624** seeks to strengthen the current statute by revisiting the collaborative, community based, community planning process, which, by design, empowers communities to develop community-based programs and to appropriately assign programs and services to prevent juvenile crime. (Attachment 1) Representative Miller also included a copy of the **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE for HB 2724**. (Attachment 2)

Joaquin Sumaya addressed the committee to introduce written testimony from Elias Garcia, on behalf of the Kansas Hispanic & Latino American Affairs Commission. They support the **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE for HB 2724** feeling that the bill addresses one of the most disturbing issues in their Latino community, the disproportionate contact between minority juveniles and the juvenile justice system. (Attachment 3)

Don Jordan, Acting Commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Authority, addressed the committee supporting **SUBSTITUTE for HB 2724**. The Juvenile Justice Authority is committed to the effort to reduce disproportionate minority contact in the state of Kansas. They welcome the statutory language changed proposed in the bill feeling that the strengthening language would help support their efforts in addressing disproportionate minority contact (DMC). (Attachment 4)

Next to address **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE for HB 2724** was Joshanna Smart, Special Assistant Kansas African American Affairs Commission. They strongly support the bill as it is their opinion that one of the most pressing concerns of Kansas minority communities is the disproportionate contact between minority juveniles and the juvenile justice system. (Attachment 5)

There were no other proponents wishing to address the bill and the Chair opened the floor for opponents.

Office of the District Attorney, Wichita Kansas, was represented by Ron Pascal who reported that the District Attorney is in opposition to **SUBSTITUTE for HB 2724**. It is their opinion that this bill will create a system where a committee of whom less than half are law-trained members of the bar would decide the standards for

CONTINUATION SHEET

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prosecution. By adding this layer of bureaucracy to the prosecution function, it will become more cumbersome. This would mean slower reaction to various criminal activity that is occurring in our respective communities and will drain the resources of the prosecutor away from the prosecution function by requiring responses to inquiry by this committee. (Attachment 6) Mr. Pascal was given a copy of the **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE for HB 2724** shortly before the pearing and was unable to give an opinion on the substitute language.

With no other person wishing to address the **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE for HB 2724**, the Chair closed the public hearing.

Following committee discussion and in the absence of a fiscal note, Chairman Edmonds appointed a sub-committee of Representative Siegfried, Representative Kelsey, Representative Kinzer, Representative Henderson and Representative Miller to further study **SUBSTITUTE for HB 2724** and return with information for the committee by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Attention was directed to **HB 2727** - concerning state officers and employees; relating to certain payroll deductions.

*Representative Dillmore made a motion amend **HB 2727** and pass out favorable for passage. Representative Myers seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

Representative Brunk explained the balloon for **SB 62** which would change the language, age requirements and poverty percentage, as well as cap the payment amount.

*Representative Brunk made a motion to amend **SB 62** and pass out favorable for passage. Representative Kinsey seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

The Chairman directed attention to **HB 2615**.

*Representative Kinzer made a motion to pass **HB 2615** favorable for passage. Representative Merrick seconded the motion. Motion failed.*

Chairman Edmonds withdrew **HB 2615** from consideration.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.