

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Vratil at 9:38 A.M. on January 10, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

David Haley arrived 10:00 A.M.

Les Donovan- excused

Greta Goodwin- excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Anadaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Bruce Kinzie, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Karen Clowers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Helen Pedigo, Kansas Sentencing Commission

Bill Introductions

Senator Derek Schmidt introduced three bills to the committee. The first bill addresses small claims court and the deadline for filing a counter claim. The second bill would allow judges to review CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) reports prior to commencement of a hearing and the third bill would address mortgage registration fees and exemptions. Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Umbarger seconded to introduce the bills.

John Peterson on behalf of the Kansas Land Title Association requested the introduction of a bill to amend K.S.A. 58a-810 regarding conveyance of property titled to a trust. Senator Umbarger moved, Senator Bruce seconded, to introduce the bill. Motion carried.

Randy Hearrell, Kansas Judicial Council requested the introduction of three bills. The first would amend K.S.A. 59-2222, 59-2247 and 59-3086 regarding Medicaid reimbursement. The second bill would clarify K.S.A. 59-1507b to identify all property that may be transferred under this section. The third bill would authorize the Kansas Commission on Judicial Performance to employ senior judges under the same arrangement as the Judicial Branch. Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Umbarger seconded, to introduce the bills. Motion carried.

Senator Vratil introduced two bills. The first would increase fees for county law libraries and the second would repeal K.S.A. 20-351a pertaining to reports on certain judgeships. Senator Bruce moved, Senator Betts seconded to introduce the bills. Motion carried.

Presentation by Helen Pedigo, Executive Director, Kansas Sentencing Commission

Ms. Pedigo provided the committee with an assessment of adult prison population projections based on legislation passed during the 2006 legislative session, especially **HB 2576** commonly referred to as Jessica's Law (Attachment 1). Estimates indicate the prison population will increase approximately 100 inmates per year as a result of **HB 2576** causing the prison population to reach capacity by 2009. Currently prison capacity is 9,397 inmates and current prison population is 8,933. Ms. Pedigo indicated that based on current projections Kansas will need to add additional prison beds to order accommodate inmate projections.

Following the presentation several requests were made by the committee. Senator Umbarger requested Ms. Pedigo to provide information on projections outlined in FY 2000 prior to the implementation of **SB 323**. Senator Vratil requested the same information on projections outlined in FY 2003 prior to the implementation of **SB 123**. Senator Betts requested information on what counties offenders are being released to and Senator Bruce requested **SB 323** offender violations and re-offenses. Response to the requests was later distributed (Attachment 2).

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M. The next scheduled meeting is January 11, 2007.