February 27, 2019

The Honorable Rick Wilborn, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 541-E
Topeka, Kansas  66612

Dear Senator Wilborn:

SUBJECT:  Fiscal Note for SB 85 by Senate Committee on Judiciary

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 85 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 85 would allow courts to order staggered sentences in certain domestic battery convictions. Under current law, such convictions mandate 90 days imprisonment. The bill would allow the 90 days to be divided into three 30-day segments. The first segment would be satisfied by participating in a work release program or being on house arrest. Both the work release option and the house arrest option would require an initial 48-hour imprisonment. If an offender is placed in a work release program, the offender would return to confinement at the end of each day and serve a minimum of 672 hours of confinement. If placed on a house arrest program, the offender would be monitored by an electronic monitoring device that verifies the offender’s location and would be required to serve a minimum of 672 hours of house arrest.

The bill would require the courts to set two review hearings, with the first between 90 to 120 days after the initial sentencing and a second hearing between 180 to 240 days after the initial sentencing. At each hearing, the court would consider the offender’s compliance with prior court orders, together with any other factors deemed relevant by the court, in deciding whether to modify the sentence by ordering a stay of execution of the next segment. SB 85 would require offenders to serve any portion of a sentence that is stayed by the court if they violate any conditions set out by the court in the stay of execution.

SB 85 specifies that the bill’s provisions would not affect any other sanction for the violation of probation, assignment to a community correctional services program, suspension of sentence, or nonprison sanction.

According to the Office of Judicial Administration, enactment of SB 85 would have a fiscal effect on the Judicial Branch. The bill’s provisions would require district courts to hold more review hearings for offenders, which would increase the time spent by district court personnel
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processing, hearing, and researching cases. The Office states court service officers could have more hearings to attend and additional offenders to monitor.

The Kansas Sentencing Commission states that enactment of SB 85 would have no effect on prison admissions or bed space. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 85 is not reflected in The FY 2020 Governor’s Budget Report.

The Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of SB 85 could result in savings for Kansas counties. If more offenders are placed on house arrest, there would be less offenders incarcerated in county jails.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Campbell  
Director of the Budget

cc: Linda Kelly, Corrections  
Scott Schultz, Sentencing Commission  
Jay Hall, Association of Counties  
Janie Harris, Judiciary