

SESSION OF 2012

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2684**

As Agreed to March 28, 2012

Brief*

HB 2684 would require the Secretary of Corrections to establish a Justice Reinvestment Working Group, which would consist of 17 members appointed by various officials in each branch of Kansas government and by law enforcement associations. The Working Group would be charged to study the data-driven, fiscally responsible policies and practices that can increase public safety and reduce recidivism and spending on corrections in Kansas. The Working Group would be required to submit a report of its activities and recommendations to the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives on or before January 1, 2013.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee added the contents of HB 2684 to HB 2704, and, subsequently, agreed to strike the provisions of HB 2684 and add language from SB 394 establishing the Justice Reinvestment Working Group.

Background

HB 2684 was introduced at the request of the Governor's Office of the Repealer and would have repealed

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statutes concerning the Ombudsman of Corrections, which has not been funded or operational for approximately a decade, rendering the statutes outmoded.

SB 394 was introduced by the Senate Judiciary Committee at the request of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC). As introduced, the bill contained a provision amending the statute allowing the Secretary of Corrections to order an offender discharged from the prison portion of a sentence if a minimal amount of time remains to be served at the time the Secretary receives notice of the transfer of the prisoner to the custody of the Secretary. Specifically, the permissible time remaining on the sentence would be increased from 10 days to 20 days. In the Senate Judiciary Committee, a representative of KDOC spoke in support of the bill. The Committee recommended the bill be passed.

In the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice, the same conferee spoke in support of the bill. The House Committee amended the bill to add a new section establishing the Justice Reinvestment Working Group. The Committee recommended the bill be passed as amended.

The fiscal note for SB 394, as introduced, does not account for the establishment of the Working Group.

Department of Corrections, Justice Reinvestment Working Group

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