

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Vratil at 9:37 A.M. on February 16, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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 Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Michael Sharma-Crawford, Attorney  
Melissa Wangeman, Legal Counsel, Secretary of State's Office  
Jerome Gorman, District Attorney, Wyandotte County  
Senator Peggy Palmer  
Ervin Grant, Attorney, El Dorado  
Jayme Collins, Assistant Director, Mental Health Center of East Central Kansas  
Shannon Spradlin

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 125--Illegal aliens, bail for certain crimes.**

Senator Journey testified in support, providing background on the intent of the bill (Attachment 1). The Senator indicated illegal aliens do not have their identity verified prior to entry into the United States, have limited financial resources, and often assume false identities which makes it difficult to establish prior convictions. These people present a unique flight risk and it is becoming a growing problem.

William Sharma-Crawford appeared in opposition, voicing concerns regarding as to who would make the determination of whether a person is in violation of federal immigration law (Attachment 2). Mr. Sharma-Crawford indicated often it takes years to determine an immigrant's status.

Written testimony in support of **SB 125** was submitted by:

Ed Klumpp Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police (Attachment 3)

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 125** was closed.

The hearing on **SB 259--Secretary of state, corporations and partnerships** was opened.

Melissa Wangeman spoke in favor, stating **SB 259** is intended to create uniform standards among the different business entities with regard to resident agents and signature requirements (Attachment 4). Ms. Wangeman also requested an amendment to clarify that reinstatements are allowed for nonpayment of the annual report fee.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 259** was closed.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 253--Public offices of district and county attorney and district court judge; ineligibility to hold offices based on criminal record.**

Jerome Gorman appeared as a proponent, indicating prosecutors and judges require the highest standards of qualifications and integrity and should be held to the same standard as sworn law enforcement officers (Attachment 5).

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 253** was closed.

The hearing on **SB 233--Aggravated incest; increasing penalties** was opened.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Representative Peggy Palmer testified in support of increasing penalties for the crime of incest to the same severity as those for rape (Attachment 6).

Ervin E. Grant appeared in support, indicating this bill would address a gap in penalties for sexual offenses regarding incest (Attachment 7). Mr. Grant provided information from several victims of incest demonstrating the devastating effect of such sexual assaults.

Jayne Collins spoke as a proponent, relating her experience with incest victims and provided background on the evolution of treatments and the State's response (Attachment 8).

Shannon Spradlin, proponent, provided the committee with her personal experience as a victim of incest (Attachment 9).

Written testimony in support of **SB 233** was submitted by:

Sandy Barnett, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence (Attachment 10)

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 233** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 A.M. The next scheduled meeting is February 19, 2007.