

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Vratil at 9:41 a.m. on March 12, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Pugh (excused)

Committee staff present:

Gordon Self, Revisor
Mike Heim, Research
Mary Blair, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Tom Stanton, Assistant Reno County Attorney
Sally Salguero, Assistant Sedgwick County Attorney
Rick Guinn, Johnson County District Attorney
Juliene Maska, Victims Rights Coordinator, Office of Attorney General
Pat McAnany, Chief Judge, Johnson County
Sharon Katz, Executive Director, SAFEHOME

Others attending: see attached list

Minutes of the March 8th meeting were approved on a motion by Senator Schmidt, seconded by Senator Umbarger. Carried.

HB 2136–re: criminal history classification

Conferee Stanton testified in support of **HB 2136**, a bill which would change the criminal history scoring requirement of the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Act to include DUI offenses from any other state or local government. Validating a need for this bill, he discussed a particular DUI driver/victim situation where current law was ineffective for meting out just punishment. He further discussed a house amendment and requested it be removed and the bill passed as originally presented. (attachment 1) Brief discussion followed.

HB 2137–concerning traffic; re: citations

Conferee Salguero testified in support of **HB 2137**, a bill which makes technical changes to the traffic laws governing the issuance of citations by a law enforcement officer. (attachment 2) Following brief discussion, Senator Adkins made a motion to pass the bill out favorably and recommend it be placed on the consent calendar, Senator O'Connor seconded. Carried.

SB 341–re: domestic violence

Conferee Guinn testified in support of **SB 341**, a bill which would authorize the courts to impose a fee on offenders involved in domestic violence cases. He reviewed Johnson County's domestic violence policy and discussed current statistics which show a reduction in domestic violence homicides in the last few years. He discussed provisions in the bill which prescribe the manner in which fees would be collected and distributed to fund special programs for domestic violence. He stated that the bill also provides for bond supervision which would be fee supported as well. (attachment 3)

Conferee Maska testified in support of **SB 341**. She reviewed how the federal S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women (VAWA) grant is administered by her office and discussed measures that were taken when it was learned that the grant is declining. She stated the AG's office supports this bill. (attachment 4)

Conferee McAnany testified in support of **SB 341**. He discussed Johnson County's coordinated efforts to aggressively address domestic violence by providing special domestic violence courts to handle such cases and by providing needed community services. These, he stated have been funded by VAWA grants which he affirmed are declining. He reviewed provisions in the bill and proposed amended language to Section 3 which would better facilitate the processing of funds. ([attachment 5](#)) Discussion followed.

Conferee Katz testified in support of **SB 341**. She discussed the structure and function of SAFEHOME, the only domestic violence program in Johnson County, and stated that the domestic violence fee provided for in this bill would assist her organization with the necessary funds to continue to serve the community. ([attachment 6](#))

Written testimony supporting **SB 341** was submitted by Sandy Barnett, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. ([attachment 7](#))

Written testimony supporting SRS recommendation to **HB 2084** was submitted by James Germer, Kansas Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. ([attachment 8](#))

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m. The next meeting is March 13, 2001.