

75-5203. Department of corrections; secretary; appointment and confirmation; salary and expenses; qualifications; oath; application of K-GOAL. (a) There is hereby established the department of corrections, the chief executive officer of which shall be the secretary of corrections. The secretary shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate as provided in K.S.A. 75-4315b, and amendments thereto, and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. Except as provided by K.S.A. 46-2601, and amendments thereto, no person appointed as secretary shall exercise any power, duty or function as secretary until confirmed by the senate. In case of a vacancy in the office of secretary, the governor shall appoint a successor in the manner that the original appointment was made. The secretary shall receive an annual salary fixed by the governor, which shall be payable in equal monthly installments. In addition, the secretary shall be entitled to receive actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of the secretary's official duties.

(b) Except as provided by subsection (c), no person shall be eligible for appointment to, or hold the position of, secretary of corrections unless such person:

(1) Has had at least five years' experience in the field of corrections or as an executive officer in the administration of federal or state penal or correctional institutions; or

(2) (A) has had at least three years' experience in the field of corrections or as an executive officer in the administration of federal or state penal or correctional institutions; and (B) has a degree from an accredited college or university, which degree is based on penology or a related field as a major of study; or

(3) (A) has had at least five years' experience as a federal, appellate or district judge or federal, district or county prosecutor, five years' experience in military administration or administration of a criminal justice agency or five years' administrative experience treating criminal offenders through programs involving penal custody, parole, probation and sentencing; (B) has a degree from an accredited college or university, which degree is in a social or behavioral science, penology, corrections, criminal justice, police science, criminology, public administration, local corrections programs or a related field; and (C) has demonstrated administrative ability and leadership.

(c) If the governor is unable to appoint a person as secretary who possesses the qualifications required by subsection (b), the governor may appoint a person without such qualifications as acting secretary, who shall be subject to confirmation by the senate as provided in K.S.A. 75-4315b, and amendments thereto, and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. Except as provided by K.S.A. 46-2601, and amendments thereto, no person appointed as acting secretary shall exercise any power, duty or function as acting secretary until confirmed by the senate.

(d) Before entering upon the duties of the office, the secretary shall take and subscribe an oath to faithfully and honestly discharge the duties of the office to the best of the secretary's knowledge and ability.

(e) The provisions of the Kansas governmental operations accountability law apply to the department of corrections, and the department is subject to audit, review and evaluation under such law.

History: L. 1973, ch. 339, § 3; L. 1974, ch. 403, § 5; L. 1977, ch. 305, § 1; L. 1981, ch. 299, § 38; L. 1982, ch. 347, § 67; L. 1987, ch. 349, § 1; L. 1992, ch. 116, § 47; L. 2001, ch. 86, § 12; L. 2008, ch. 121, § 28; July 1.