

**SB 491 – Standardizing criminal history record check fingerprinting language and defining who may be fingerprinted for a criminal history record check.**

*Joseph House, Paramedic  
Executive Director  
Emergency Medical Services Board*

**Proponent Testimony**

Chairman Owens and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 491.

The Emergency Medical Services Board is the lead EMS agency in our state responsible for protecting the public through the effective oversight of all things EMS related in Kansas; this includes ambulance services, ambulances, EMS providers, and EMS educational entities. We are one of the agencies that requires a criminal history record check be performed for all new licensees.

The Board appreciates the hard work and effort of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Revisor's office in drafting this bill and this very necessary language. We support this legislation and the reasons for its introduction. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation has brought you a very good solution to an ongoing issue and a solution we believe will benefit the state.

The Board currently receive all records of adult convictions, non-convictions, or adjudications (evidenced by the stricken language on page 141, lines 13 and 14) for our new license applicants. We strongly support the move to new section 2 subsection (b)(3) (page 3 lines 27-29) allowing us to receive all records of adult convictions, non-convictions, diversions, and expunged records, as well as juvenile adjudications, non-adjudications, and diversions.

SB 491 is consistent with, and appropriate for, the high degree of trust needing to be rendered by the public for our potential licensees. Records of adjudication are very necessary to our licensing process as we have applicants that are under the age of 18. Furthermore, a license as an EMS provider grants the individual the ability to care for incapacitated and/or vulnerable individuals unable to protect themselves as well as minors without a parent or guardian present. The high degree of trust the public must have for EMS providers is garnered, in part, through our thorough review of the individual's criminal history record.

SB 491 is very necessary legislation. We believe this move to subsection (b)(3) affords us the ability to thoroughly review the appropriate degree of criminal history records necessary for the public to hold a strong and high degree of trust with our licensees. We ask for your support of this bill.