

SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS

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House Judiciary Committee

Neutral Testimony

HB 2028 – Requiring certain records to be automatically expunged from a person's criminal record

Shawn Jurgensen Special Counsel to the Chief Justice

Chairman Patton and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today to testify concerning HB 2028. The bill would require certain records be automatically expunged from a person's criminal record and provides the process for such.

The judicial branch appears neutrally because it does not take a position on the policy underlying the bill. Instead, it asks the committee to consider extending the implementation date from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024. The bill requires district courts, 30 days after entering an order of acquittal or dismissal of criminal charges, to order the record of such charges and related arrest records expunged unless certain exceptions are met.

Because of the number of criminal cases processed in Kansas courts, this process must be automated. The Kansas judicial branch is in the midst of rolling out its new centralized case management system, and the five largest counties in the state are still being converted to the new system. Automating this process is critical to court operations, particularly in high volume judicial districts. Additionally, the software developer will need time to complete the programming needed.

We have discussed this proposal with the bill's sponsor, Representative Curtis, and she considers this a friendly amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.