



Kansas Sheriffs' Association

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Testimony to the House Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions
Proponent to HB 2594-Local KP&F Option for Local Corrections Officers

Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association submits testimony as a proponent of HB 2594.

Across the State of Kansas many sheriff offices are finding it difficult to hire detention deputies/corrections officers/jailers. In part, this is due to lower wages than fully commissioned deputies and being required to only be enrolled into KPERS.

KSA is very concerned about the new Tier III KPERS Cash Balance plan for employees hired after January 1 of 2015. This plan is detrimental to the retaining of long term employees. The current plan as we understand it makes detention deputies work until they are 62 years of age and at retirement will only collect a maximum of 37% of their paycheck. This means that a detention deputy can be hired at the age of 18 in some areas of the State of Kansas, would have to work 44 years in a high stress, low pay career and at the end of this career only receive an estimated maximum of 37% of their annual paycheck. The new retirement system has created even more challenges to recruit new detention deputies.

HB 2594 simply is proposing legislation to allow local counties the option of placing detention deputies/correction officers/jailers into the KP&F retirement system which would allow them to have the potential same retirement benefits as commissioned deputies. Currently, this option is not available. If passed, this bill would allow local governments to decide if they want to pay the extra contributions that KP&F would require and would allow local governments to decide how much they value the contributions being made by these dedicated individuals.

The Kansas Sheriff's Association is a proponent of this bill as written. We thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sheriff Jeffrey T. Easter
Legislative Chair for the Kansas Sheriff's Association