

Approved: February 3, 2000  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Tim Carmody at 3:30 p.m. on January 18, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Michael O'Neal - excused

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Legislative Research Department

Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Cindy O'Neal, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jeff Bottenberg, Kansas Sheriffs' Association

Honorable John White, Chief Judge, 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District

Jeff Bottenberg, Kansas Sheriffs' Association, requested that the committee introduce a bill which would amend K.S.A. 60-303 & 61-1803 to allow sheriffs' departments to serve process by any authorized method, unless personal or residence service has been specifically requested.

Representative Long made the motion to have the request introduced as a committee bill. Representative Loyd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Honorable John White, Chief Judge, 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District, gave a presentation on Non-judicial Salary Initiative. The Kansas Supreme Court appointed the Non-judicial Salary Initiative Committee to study the current pay plan and propose changes. They found that because of the lack of compensation, the court has had a high percentage of turnovers:

- , Non Judicial- 17%
- , Clerks of the Court - 23%
- , Court Services Officers - 12%
- , 70.3% are leaving with a tenure of less than three years

The Courts can't compete with employment in the private sector when the COLA that is given by the state each year is considerably less than the inflation rate.

The Committee had six recommendations, of which two were primary. The first, was to move towards a Pay for Performance Plan and have it apply to managers & supervisors, not line staff. Second, was to provide an annual cost of living increase in salaries each year. The remaining four recommendations could be done Court Rule but would need the State to enhance their budget. (Attachment 1)

Staff from the Kansas Legislative Research Department gave an overview of reports from the Special Committee on Judiciary. (Copies of Interims Committee Reports can be found at the Kansas Legislative Research Department.)

The Committee meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2000.