



Kansas Sheriffs' Association

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Testimony to the Committee on House Energy, Utilities and Telecom Committee In support of HB2620-Phone Spoofing

Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association submits testimony in support of HB2620.

Phone spoofing has become a very big problem across the State of Kansas. Essentially, what occurs is a person or persons decide they want to run a scam/fraud on an unsuspecting victim. They use a number that does not belong to them to call the victim. In most cases the suspect(s) are out of state but use an area code that is the same as the victim and on most occasions use the first (3) numbers of the victim's phone number. Such as (316) 880. This tactic makes the victim believe the phone call is legitimate and on most occasions answer the phone. From this point the scam is ran on the victim and many times the victim spends money over the phone with nothing in return. The Sedgwick County Sheriff's office investigates several of these cases a year.

Secondly, suspect(s) in Domestic Violence have started using phone spoofing to harass their victim. They will call the victim several times a day with spoofed numbers that do not belong to the suspect. The victims and the investigating agency do not have any recourse because they cannot track down who the number belongs to and cannot prove the suspect is making the phone calls.

Lastly, legitimate businesses use phone spoofing. I have mainly seen it used by credit card companies wanting to sign a person up for a credit card or service. In fact, while I was typing this testimony, I received a phone call from (913) 828-3550 a Kansas phone number. I answered it because I knew it was going to be a spoofed call. It was an automated phone call from VISA credit card services wanting me to sign up for a credit card. I hung up and called the number back. The phone was answered by KVC Health Systems. I asked them if they were signing people up for VISA credit cards and the nice person on the other line stated I had the wrong number. I explained who I was and why I had called the number and she explained that this has happened before with their phone number.

Citizens of Kansas are being scammed and harassed due to phone spoofing. It is time for the legislature to take action against phone spoofing.

The Kansas Sheriff's Association is supportive of HB2620.

Thank you for allowing this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

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