

MINUTES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas C. Owens at 12:35 P.M. on February 25, 2008 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Pat Colloton- excused

Representative John Grange- excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jerry Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jill Wolters Revisor of Statutes Office

Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office

Cyndie Rexer, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Chuck Simmons, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections

Russell Jennings, Commission, Juvenile Justice Authority

Others attending:

See attached list.

Jill Wolters, Revisor, briefed the Committee on the content of HB 2740.

Chuck Simmons spoke in support of HB 2740 which amends K.S.A. 75-5212 to reduce the minimum number of annual training hours for a corrections officer from 80 to 40 hours per year. The Department believes that routine annual training of officers can be accomplished with a 40 hour curriculum, this significantly reducing the amount of overtime paid or the necessity of facilities implementing reduced shift staffing plans in order to accommodate officers participating in annual training. The minimum 40 hours of annual curriculum training provided by this bill is consistent with the training standards of other states. (Attachment 1)

A period of questions and answers followed.

Representative Holmes moved to amend Section D, line 34 by adding the words “not less than” so the bill will read “not less than 40 hours”. Representative Dahl seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Johnson moved to pass the bill as amended. Representative Henry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Russell Jennings spoke in support of SB 410 which cleans up existing statutory language surrounding the four current juvenile correctional facilities and amends current statute to allow a Deputy Superintendent be appointed at each facility. The JJA would like to operate with 2 Superintendents, 1 over Larned and Beloit and 1 over Topeka and Atchison, with a Deputy Superintendent at each facility. The bill also eliminates having an attorney employed at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex. (Attachment 2 and 3)

A period of questions and answers followed. Representative Dahl brought to the committee's attention the last paragraph of the bill which would repeal the statute that finds any individual convicted of assisting or harboring an escaped juvenile from a juvenile correctional facility guilty of a misdemeanor. It was determined the committee needed more time to study this bill.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. in Room 431-N.

The meeting was recessed at 1:15 p.m. to continue the hearing on SB 410 at a later meeting.