



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COURT SERVICES OFFICERS

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
Representative J. Russell Jennings, Chairman

Wednesday February 8, 2017

Cody McArthur, Legislative Chair for the Kansas Association of Court Services Officers (KACSO)

Proponent testimony for HB 2264

The Kansas Association of Court Services Officers (KACSO) has reviewed HB 2264. KACSO would like to thank all of the Representatives who have worked on 2264 and their willingness to listen to changes that would be beneficial to the Juvenile Justice system. KACSO is a Proponent of 2264 with some recommendations for changes that KACSO believes would benefit the youth of Kansas if implemented.

- **Setting cumulative detention limits for juvenile offender cases.**
 - In some circumstances, there are reasons a youth is detained for longer periods of time such as waiting for placement, inpatient treatment, drug and alcohol screens, and mental health assessments only to list a few. CSO's do not believe that the current 45-day maximum is truly in the best interest of all the youth in Kansas. CSO's believe that Judges should have the ability to override this limit in certain circumstances.
- **The striking of "danger to self" as criteria for detention.**
 - This bill includes "damage to property" as criteria for detention. However, it removes the ability to detain a youth based on the juvenile being a danger to oneself. It is imperative that the courts have the ability to protect juvenile offenders not only when they are a risk to others and property but when they are at risk to harm themselves.
- **Obtaining a warrant on a youth after three Violations.**
 - This has already proven to be a concern in many districts. We agree with the idea behind the three violations however there is a need for an override in certain circumstances. We have already had youth on probation that have received new Misdemeanor charges for Possession of

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a Firearm. Those youth would not meet criteria for detention based on the new charge and if it is not the youth's third violation, the CSO cannot revoke their probation. Again, there is a need for an override or discretion in certain circumstances.

CSO's are supportive of using tools statewide to consistently address the youth's criminogenic risks and needs and to guide responses to technical violations. CSO's would recommend following MHS on the YLS with regards to risk Levels (Low, Moderate, High, and Very high). CSO's believe that providing appropriate services to the appropriate youth based on their risk level is important. CSO's are supportive of HB 2264 and SB 367 and would encourage the committee to consider these recommendations to help strengthen the Juvenile Justice System.

KACSO thanks the committee for allowing us to provide testimony on HB2264 and for all of the work that has already been done.

KACSO Board

Chris Esquibel
KACSO President

Legislative Committee

Cody McArthur
Legislative Chair

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