



Kansas Sheriffs' Association

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Testimony to the Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Opposed to HB 2050-Concerning Crimes, Punishment and Criminal Procedure
February 5, 2019

Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association submits testimony opposing HB 2050.

We oppose this bill from three positions. The first position is the removal of the 120 and 180 day sanctions that are currently served in KDOC custody. In HB 2050 the new language on page 13, lines 36 and 37 reads, ("impose confinement in a county jail not to exceed 60 days.") So instead of going into KDOC custody the inmate will be placed into the Sheriff's custody for 60 days at the county expense.

In the Memorandum from the Kansas Sentencing Commission dated January 29, the Impact Assessment states: (This bill will reduce prison admissions in 2020 by 1215). This means 1215 less prisoners in KDOC custody for 120 or 180 days. What this also means is those 1215 prisoners will be spending 60 days in the local jails.

The Sedgwick County Corrections Department looked into the effects of this bill and provided the following analysis.

- 224 Sedgwick County prisoners were placed back into KDOC custody for 160 or 180 days.
- Under this bill the prisoner would be placed into the Sedgwick County Jail for 60 days.
- This equates to 13,440 days of county bed space x \$71.94 per day to house the inmate which totals \$966,873.60 in county expenses.

This bill does not provide any funding to offset those costs.

The second position centers on the public safety aspect. Numerous times these same probation violators are committing criminal acts in the community and contributing to the rise in property crimes. It appears this bill allows for numerous second chances without any consequences. It is already a hard discussion with the public when a two time convicted burglar is not in prison, let alone the numerous chances this same convicted criminal is violating his or her probation and is only spending 2-3 days in jail.

The discussion in the Sentencing Commission meetings was interesting. A reason given to eradicate the 120 and 180 day sanctions was due to job loss experienced by the probation violator. However, placing them into the county jail for 60 days does not create the same issue?

The third concern is other bills that could be introduced about “Prison Reform”. The KSA does not believe a holistic approach has been pursued on prison overcrowding. We believe a comprehensive committee should be formed to discuss all the issues dealing with prison overcrowding before passing piecemeal legislation.

The Kansas Sheriff’s Association is opposed to 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