

HOUSE CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Representative Stephen Owens, Chairman

KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION
Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
February 1, 2022

Proponent Testimony – HB 2517

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of this legislation on behalf of the Kansas Sentencing Commission. The KSSC introduced this bill to bring the certification of substance abuse treatment provider function under the administrative umbrella of the Commission.

HB 2517 transfers the responsibility to certify drug abuse treatment providers that participate in the certified drug treatment program (2003 SB 123) from the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) to the Kansas Sentencing Commission. This will require a transfer of one full-time staff member (unclassified Program Consultant II, SB123 Program Manager), and a total of \$74,628.47 in salary and fringes to the KSSC. The staff member will be responsible for certification where they will continue working in their current capacity under the supervision of the KSSC's SB 123 Director. This transfer will not require new revenue to pay for the position. It simply would be a transfer of funds from KDOC. The KSSC has conferred with Secretary Zmuda and he has no objections to the transfer of the position.

Language in K.S.A. 21-6824 and K.S.A. 75-52,144 is amended to reflect the transfer of certification authority from the secretary to the KSSC. This transfer is meant to enhance continuity in the 2003 SB 123 Substance Abuse Treatment Program. In addition to recent needed cost of treatment increases for treatment providers, this move would be another positive step in the evolution of the program. Our office has also advised House and Senate budget committees that funds would need to be transferred in addition to these statutory changes.

I appreciate your time and attention to the KSSC's testimony, and I would be happy to answer questions. Thank you.