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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 12, 2021
Subject: Bill Brief for SCR 1608

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1608 would amend Section 3 of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, relating to the right to petition the government for the redress of grievances, including by citizen-initiated grand jury.

Section 3 of the Bill of Rights currently provides that: “The people have the right to assemble, in a peaceable manner, to consult for their common good, to instruct their representatives, and to petition the government, or any department thereof, for the redress of grievances.” The amendment would add language that places the right to citizen-initiated grand juries with the right to petition the government for the redress of grievances. Current law concerning citizen-initiated grand juries is in chapter 22 of the Kansas statutes.

As with all concurrent resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Kansas, the resolution must be adopted by a $2/3$ vote in each chamber in order to be presented to the general electorate for approval. If SCR 1608 were adopted by this constitutional majority in both chambers, then it would be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November 2022.

Senate Judiciary Comm.
Date Mar 12, 2021
Attachment 1