

Joint Committee on Kansas Security

ANNUAL REPORT

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Committee recommends all possible funds from the executive branch and the legislative branch be utilized to move forward as expeditiously as possible with implementing security measures recommended by the Department of Homeland Security for the Capitol Complex and other appropriate security measures.

Proposed Legislation: None

BACKGROUND

The 2004 Legislature created the Joint Committee on Kansas Security (KSA 46-3301) to study, monitor, review, and make recommendations for the following:

- Matters relating to the security of state officers and employees;
- Security of buildings and property under the ownership or control of the state;
- Matters relating to the security of a public body or agency, public building, or facility;
- Matters relating to the security of the infrastructure of Kansas, including any information system; and
- Measures for the improvement of security for the State.

The Committee is to submit an annual report by December 31 on its findings and recommendations concerning Kansas security to the Legislature.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Committee met November 7, 2012, to hear information concerning a vulnerability assessment of the Capitol Complex performed by the Department of Homeland Security and to receive a briefing on the Kansas Fusion Center. Both topics were discussed in sessions closed to the public under KSA 75-4319; paragraph (b)(13) of that statute permits portions of an open meeting to be closed so that members may discuss certain matters relating to security measures, if that discussion would jeopardize such security measures. Those present at the closed sessions included Committee members, staff of the Kansas Highway Patrol, staff of the Fusion Center, and the Attorney General.

Following the discussion and briefing, the Committee met in open session. It discussed the procedures for requesting a review by the Legislative Division of Post Audit of possible diversion of funds donated to assist veterans. There was consensus that a scope statement for such an audit should be developed and an audit requested.

The Committee also discussed its potential recommendations to the 2013 Legislature regarding Kansas security, specifically approaches to statutorily clarifying responsibility for security in various buildings in the Capitol Complex. The Capitol Complex includes the Statehouse;

Memorial Hall; the Kansas Judicial Center; the Dillon House; the former Topeka Women's Club housing the Insurance Department; the Curtis, Docking, Eisenhower, and Landon State Office Buildings; and environs. It took these actions:

- The Committee voted to request a report from the Division of Facilities Management on security in all Capitol Complex buildings by December 1;
- The Committee voted to have the Chairperson send a letter to the Attorney General requesting the Attorney General cooperate with the Division of Facilities Management to determine the necessary steps, including the exclusion of weapons, to bring the Memorial Building's security measures in line with standards utilized at the Statehouse and other Capitol Complex facilities as quickly as possible;
- The Committee voted to recommend that high priority be given to funding adequate security measures for the Capitol Complex and to ensure the Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees are notified of this recommendation;

- The Committee voted to request the Kansas Highway Patrol work with the Division of Facilities Management, Department of Administration, and recommend an approach to authority for security in Capitol Complex buildings; and
- The Committee requested the Kansas Highway Patrol determine how other states assign responsibility for security in the buildings near their statehouses and report to the Committee in January on its findings.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends all possible funds from the executive branch and the legislative branch be utilized to move forward with implementing security measures recommended by the Department of Homeland Security for the Capitol Complex and other appropriate security measures as expeditiously as possible.

2012 JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY

Senate

Sen. Jay Emler, Chairperson
Sen. Anthony Hensley
Sen. Carolyn McGinn
Sen. Allen Schmidt

House

Rep. Mario Goico, Vice-chairperson
Rep. Stan Frownfelter
Rep. Judith Loganbill
Rep. Peggy Mast
Rep. Connie O'Brien

Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jill Shelley
Aaron Klaassen
Dennis Hodgins

Revisor of Statutes Office

Chuck Reimer
Scott Wells

Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

CHARGE

The Joint Committee on Kansas Security is statutorily directed to study, monitor, review, and make recommendations on matters regarding the security of state employees and state-owned buildings or property; matters regarding the security of the public, including public buildings and facilities; matters regarding the security of the Kansas infrastructure, including information systems; and measures for the improvement of security for the State of Kansas. The Committee also is charged to review and monitor federal moneys received by the state for homeland security or other security purposes.

Approved Meeting Days: 1