

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 228

As Recommended by Senate Select Committee
on KPERS

Brief*

SB 228 would define “police,” “policeman,” and “policemen,” as those terms are used in the statutes relating to the Kansas Police and Fireman’s (KP&F) Retirement System, to mean individuals who have been certified by the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and assigned to a police department, whose duties include engagement in the enforcement of law, who have been designated by their employer as a police officer, and for whom contributions have been made to the KP&F Retirement System. Individuals covered by the bill would not be denied benefits because of a temporary or full-time assignment to a jail, adult detention center, or other correctional facility. The bill would apply retroactively to July 1, 1999.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

Representatives from the sheriff offices of Leavenworth and Johnson counties spoke in support of the bill, explaining sheriff deputies in the respective counties have recently been denied disability benefits by the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) due to the deputies’ assignment to a jail or correctional facility. Proponents explained that when deputies are assigned to a jail, they may be called upon to assist with other law enforcement assignments outside of

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>.

the facilities. Deputies assigned to a jail or other facility have been paying contributions into the KP&F Retirement System.

There was no opponent testimony.

A representative of KPERS provided neutral testimony, explaining under current law certain local correctional officers, including deputy sheriffs assigned to local jails, have not been considered eligible for KP&F membership. KPERS is currently involved in an administrative appeal with a member who was denied KP&F disability benefits.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, in consultation with KPERS, the actuarial cost to the system would be negligible if the bill applied only to those members who have already been contributing to KP&F for the purposes of actuarial valuations. KPERS estimated any new administrative costs could be accommodated by the current budget.