

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 228

As Amended by House Committee on Pensions
and Benefits

Brief*

SB 228, as amended, 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.

Background

At the Senate Select Committee on Kansas Public Employees Retirement System hearing 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 the facilities.

*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>

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 currently is involved in an administrative appeal with a member who was denied KP&F disability benefits.

Representatives from the sheriff offices of Leavenworth and Johnson counties spoke in support of the bill during the House Committee hearing. A representative of KPERS provided neutral testimony.

The House Committee on Pensions and Benefits amended the bill to change the effective date from publication in the *Kansas Register* to publication in the statute book.

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.