

Kansas Peace Officers' Association



INCORPORATED

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Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Opposition to SB360
February 13, 2018

Chairman Honorable Senator Wilborn
Vice Chair Honorable Senator Lynn
Ranking Minority Member Honorable Senator Haley

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Senate Bill 360.

I come to you as an active Police Officer and administrator in a small Kansas municipality.

This bill will impact 435 Law Enforcement agencies in the State of Kansas. Seventy percent of those agencies have fewer than ten officers. Fifty percent have five officers or less. Many of these Law Enforcement agencies lack support staff to accomplish the clerical functions associated with the office. The staff functions are performed by officers themselves, while still available to respond to calls.

Having these issues in mind the 24-hour requirement to have a video download, reviewed, redacted, copied and ready is unrealistic. Video redaction software is also unaffordable for most of our small agencies.

Eliminating the written request in open records requests will result in the lack of clarity of the request and the absence of documentation as to who requested the video, what time and date of the video to be released, date and time video is released. Supporting documentation would substantiate that the video was in fact released to the person making the original request.

Release to "next of Kin" release is too broad and needs to be clearly defined. It provides no limit to the number of persons that could be designated.

Thirty days to complete an investigation is not reasonable in all cases. Initial interviews, locating witnesses, follow up interviews, prosecution concerns.

Having the language in the Bill that will not allow redacting after 270 days does not allow for adequate considerations for prosecutions, protection of confidential sources or undercover officers, or individuals privacy. Some redactions may still be applicable, but the inclusion of 270 days does not allow for that.

Redaction should also apply to violence imposed on a Law Enforcement Officer.

SB 360 needs to have a review by the Judicial Council to work on addressing the concerns stated in this testimony. The Judicial Council may address issues I may have overlooked.

Thank you. I stand for questions.

Respectfully;

Ramon C. Gonzalez, Jr.
Perry Police Department