

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SUSAN HUMPHRIES
99TH DISTRICT

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DATE: October 26, 2021
TO: Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight
FROM: Susan Humphries, Kansas House of Representatives, District 99
Re: Judicial Council Committee Recommendations
Explanation of HB 2349

Dear Chairman Jennings, Vice Chair Baumgardner, and Ranking Member Highberger, and Committee members,

Today I come before you in support of changes to our Kansas Offender Registration Act. I come as a previous member of this committee, as a member of the Judicial Council committee that studied this topic for two years, and as an attorney.

Specifically, HB 2349 makes changes to our Kansas Offender Registration Act (KORA). There are 12 sections in this bill, and I have included an outline of those sections at the end of this testimony. KORA is in Chapter 22 of our statutes (the criminal code), and Article 49 deals with offender registration. In Kansas we register drug offenders, sex offenders, and violent crime offenders.

A committee of the Kansas Judicial Council studied KORA for two years, meeting all day the first Friday of every month. You have a list of the committee members, coming from all areas of the state, and representative of all the diverse entities that have a stake in KORA. The committee met, studied, discussed, listened, reviewed, and literally worked and reworked every section of this bill. We agonized over words and commas to bring a product that best represented improvements to our KORA statutes, with almost – not always – unanimous agreement.

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But that is NOT the reason to vote this bill needs your consideration. The reason is because it is good policy for the state of Kansas. I urge you to thoughtfully dive into the documents and testimony presented to you today. My colleagues have compiled an excellent in-depth summary of the proposed legislation, using current research and evidence-based conclusions. The policies are common sense, not soft on offenders, but smart. I ask you to review the material and ask questions and eventually make recommendations to amend KORA.

Thank you,
Susan Humphries

Summary of HB 2349

New Section 1 – Petition court to waive payment of registration fee.

Section 2 – Obstructing apprehension or prosecution

Section 3 – Petition court for expungement and registering.

Section 4 – Sentencing guideline grid: KORA offenses and aggravated KORA offenses.

Section 5 – 22-4902 Definitions . . . **who** is offender – some deletes and some adds.

Section 6 – 22-4903 **What** – KORA registration violations

Section 7 – 22-4904 **How** – Registration requirements

Section 8 – 22-4905 **Duties** of offender, where, fees, etc.

Section 9 – 22-4906 Time period, some private

Section 10 – 22-4907 Information/Forms, KBI notifies work, school county

Section 11 – 22-4908 May file petition for relief from registration, retroactivity

Section 12 – 22-4909 Open to inspection, some restricted