

SENATE BILL 157

Testimony by Rick Sabel

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I am here today to speak on behalf of Senate Bill 157, which simply and succinctly amends the concealed carry law (KSA 75-7c01) by allowing current out of state law enforcement officers and retired law enforcement officers the option to carry concealed where signage is posted prohibiting such action.

In October 2011, I retired from law enforcement and more specifically the KBI after 25 years of protecting the citizens of Kansas. That desire did not end when I left the bureau. Having seen what has taken place in this country during the past year, I felt it was worthwhile to revisit the Kansas Personal & Family Protection Act to see if any amendments to the law could be made. In working with a variety of current and retired law enforcement officers the following information was reviewed:

- 1) Through the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) of 2004 (commonly referred to as HR218), the federal government exempted qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns. LEOSA however, was subject to the individual states stricter guidelines. In order to be qualified the retired officers must at a minimum:
 - Be retired in good standing with their agency.
 - Before retiring was regularly employed as a LEO for an aggregate of 15 years or more.
 - During the past 12 month period, has met the State's standards for training and qualification for active LEO's.
 - The retiree is not prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm etc.
 - Possess photographic identification issued by the agency from which the LEO retired indicating the individual met the necessary qualifications required of active LEO's.

- 2) In section 75-7c10, subsection c 2, the Kansas Personal & Family Protection Act allows the US Attorney for Kansas, Kansas Attorney General, District Attorney's and County Attorney's, along with their assistants the ability to carry concealed where signage is posted preventing such action.

Senate Bill 157 simply states that current out of state law enforcement officers or retired law enforcement officers meeting the requirements of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act 18 USC 926 b and 926 c and amendments thereto be included in the same subsection as that listed in section 2 above.

My reasoning is based on the following information:

- Retired LEO's have undergone thousands of hours of actual firearms training during their careers.
- Retired LEO's have received countless hours of Use of Force training.
- Retired LEO's have received countless hours of Weapon Retention training.
- Per HR218, retired LEO's are required to qualify yearly which is the same requirement KLETC expects from current active law enforcement officers.
- Retired LEO's are held to the exact same firearm qualification standards as active LEO's. These standards are established by KLETC.

In conclusion: I feel this is yet another opportunity to provide additional protection to the citizens of Kansas without compromising the integrity of the concealed carry law. Your support for this amendment would be greatly appreciated.

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