

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Melanie Meier- excused

Representative Clay Aurand- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Barbara Lewerenz, Committee Assistant

Conferee appearing before the committee:

Ted Smith, Attorney for Kansas Department of Revenue

No Written Testimony:

Terry Mitchell, Chief Examiner of Driver Licensing, Kansas Department of Revenue

Dean Reynoldson, Identity Security Investigator, Kansas Department of Revenue

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Goico, seconded by Representative Goyle for approval of minutes of the House Committee on Veterans Military and Homeland Security, held February 12, 2009. Motion Carried.

The Chairman introduced Ted Smith, Attorney for the Kansas Department of Revenue. Mr. Smith briefed the Committee on the results of REAL ID, a bill that originated in the Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee in 2007 and is now known as **SB-9** AN ACT providing for improved security for drivers' licenses and identification cards (Attachment 1). Mr. Smith introduced Terry Mitchell, Chief Examiner of Driver Licensing and Dean Reynoldson, Identity Security Investigator, both of the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Mr Smith said the new program has been underway for more than a year now and that much been learned regarding prevention of fraud and maintaining a secure identity system. Presently all new applicants are required to provide a valid birth certificate, verifiable social security number, proof of lawful presence and proof of address. Prior to **SB 9**, hundreds of individuals were issued drivers license and identification documents based on the submission of social security affidavits. **SB 9** explicitly removed the Division's authority to rely on affidavits and there has been a dramatic decline in applications from foreign applicants as a result.

The Division of Vehicles supervises 135 state driver's license examiners. Based on requirements in **SB 9**, each examiner has been fingerprinted and required to attend annual mandatory fraud document training. A grant from the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency has enabled Kansas to build a Model Office/Photo First process, which electronically attaches the photo image, signature and documents to the license. This will allow for detection of attempted fraud early in the process. Information for identity verification is shared with law enforcement. An interface with the Bureau of Vital Statistics allows death data to be shared and is also attached to the drivers record to "close" it. Currently work is being done to expand the interface to include birth records. As of January 26, 2009, 15 states are now able to share or query photo images to verify identity.

Following the briefing, Mr. Smith and Mr. Reynoldson answered questions of the Committee. The accuracy of the information verified by the Federal agencies has been reliable for verification of the social security numbers and the verification procedure for immigrant status has improved. The more formal the relations the United States has with a foreign country, the easier it is to validate documentation. Examiners are doing a good job recognizing fraud. The current trend is that authentic documents are being presented by imposters. When suspected fraud occurs, the documents are forwarded to the central office for investigation.

The Chairman commended the representatives of the Department of Vehicles for their outstanding work

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Veterans, Military And Homeland Security Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

on this project.

The Chairman advised the Committee to watch the agenda for further meetings. Currently there are none scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.