



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
March 8, 2023
SB 228

Kansas Association of Counties
Proponent Testimony – Written Only

Chairman Owens and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer proponent testimony on SB 228, which would make several changes to statutes surrounding county jails, including removing the requirement that every county have a jail, modify the procedures when courts commit individuals to jails, and reimbursing county jails for housing individuals awaiting evaluation by the state hospital to determine competency.

Mental health is a growing concern not just for counties, but for Kansans overall. The costs associated with housing individuals awaiting evaluation has added to the burden for county government, which in turn has added a strain on county taxpayers. The reimbursement proposed by the amendment added on the Senate floor helps support these required evaluations. KAC and its member counties would urge the committee to maintain this amendment.

We would, however, ask for a clarification. In new section 1, the amendment allows for reimbursement for individuals in the custody of the sheriff. Shawnee County, however, operates a Department of Corrections at the county level. To make sure that every county is included, we would ask that new section 1 be amended to say “(a) Whenever a person is in the custody of a sheriff *or a county department of corrections* and confined in a jail...” This would ensure that all counties are included.

The Kansas Association of Counties supports the passage of SB 228 as amended by the Senate. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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