

"BAIL AGENTS ASSURE JUSTICE"

Kansas Bail Agents Association

2947 N. Athenian Ave., Wichita, Kansas 67204

House Committee on Judiciary
Neutral Testimony - Senate Bill 204

Rick Morey President Wichita, Kansas

Shane Rolf Executive Vice-President Olathe, Kansas

Dennis Berndt Treasurer Salina, Kansas

JC. Loewen Vice-President Newton, Kansas

Laura Frisbie Secretary Wichita, Kansas

David Stuckman At-Large Director Manhattan Kansas

Terri Deede Ricketts At-Large Director Wichita, Kansas

Candy Crow Education Director Wichita, Kansas

Michael Crow At-Large Director Wichita, Kansas

Pat Hiebert At-Large Director Wichita, Kansas

Ryan Eastep At Large Director Wichita, Kansas

Cal Williams At Large Director Salina, Kansas

Danny Slusser At Large Director Wichita, Kansas

Jonathan Gear At Large Director Wichita, Kansas March 11, 2025

Chair Humphries and Committee Members,

My name is Shane Rolf. I am the Executive Vice President of the Kansas Bail Agents Association. I am providing this neutral testimony on behalf of the KBAA regarding Senate Bill 204.

We had provided Opposition Testimony when the bill was heard in the Senate. Our primary concerns was that, since there is no statutory definition for "arrest warrant" the language in this bill could easily lead to the sealing of case wherein a bench warrant had been issued following a failure to appear or failure to comply. Closing off public access to these cases would have presented a problem for the bail bond industry in managing our defendants.

The Senate added language in the bill specifying that nothing in the section would "apply to a warrant issued pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2807." Warrants issued pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2807 are those warrants involving failures to appear or failures to comply while released pursuant to some form of pretrial release.

We are still unsure of the actual necessity of sealing cases without a specific finding by the Court. Others states are completely transparent on this issue and it does not appear to have impacted public safety. Additionally, we do feel that – in limited circumstances – this sealing could leave bondsmen with an information deficit when deciding whether or not to post bail for a defendant.

Despite these remaining concerns, the amendment by the Senate largely abrogates our primary concern with the bill. As such, we are no longer opposed to the passage of Senate Bill 204. However, given the transparency issues, we do remain neutral.

Shane Rolf
Executive Vice President
Kansas Bail Agents Association