



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Tony Mattivi
Director

Kris W. Kobach
Attorney General

Before the
Senate Committee on Governmental Efficiency
Neutral Testimony regarding SB 99
Bob Stuart, Executive Officer
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
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Chairwoman Erickson and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present neutral testimony regarding SB99, an Act concerning the state budget: relating to full-time positions.

The KBI is unique from other state agencies in that the hiring process for each and every one of our positions requires a complete background examination. This is an expensive and time consuming process necessitated by the sensitive work done and information held by KBI employees.

The best example that illustrates the time issue can be found in our special agent hiring process. Every year the KBI conducts a 4 month long new agent training class that begins in October. This year's class graduated 18 new Special Agents. In order to get an appropriate class size selected, vetted, and prepared for the yearly training the hiring process begins in December of the previous year with a vacancy announcement. In the months that follow, applications are received and ranked, interviews are conducted, and conditional offers are made. Once the conditional offers are accepted, new agent candidates undergo a full background examination including a polygraph, a physical examination and a mental health examination before being given a slot in the training academy.

As you can see this is an 8 to 9 month process where we have (in this year) 18 apparent open and unfilled vacant positions. To further complicate matters the KBI experiences some candidate attrition, due either to an applicant withdrawing his/her name or due to failure of some part of the background examination. Those slots would remain unfilled until the next yearly iteration of the special agent hiring process.

SB99's effect would result in an inaccurate picture of KBI vacancies at any point in time. Any lapsing of funds or deletion of positions would be based on those reports which would likely show a number of slots not filled for 180 days but that, in matter of fact, are simple in the middle of our long hiring process. For that reason we would respectfully request the Committee consider exempting the KBI from the requirements of SB99.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information to the Committee as you begin to work SB99. The KBI is always available to provide additional or clarifying information should the Committee require.

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