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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 17, 2025

Subject: Bill Brief on SB 204

Senate Bill 204 requires case and warrant information be sealed in criminal and juvenile offender cases.

The bill amends K.S.A. 60-2617, the statutes that provides for sealing or redacting of court records. Current law provides the process for sealing and redacting certain records. A new subsection (a) would be added providing that upon the filing of a criminal or juvenile offender case in which an arrest warrant is being sought, the case shall be sealed until such warrant has been executed or the request for a warrant is denied. Nothing prohibits disclosure to law enforcement for the purpose of executing such warrant. All subpoenas issued in a criminal or juvenile offender case shall be sealed and shall only be unsealed if the court makes a finding that unsealing such subpoena is in the interest of justice. These new provisions would be applied retroactively to any case or warrant information or subpoenas that are currently pending. A definition of "seal" is added which would mean that no information related to a case, warrant or subpoena, including its existence, shall be made available to the public.