

MEMORANDUM

To: John Kirk, Division of the Budget
From: Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
Date: February 17, 2021
Re: Prison Bed Impact Assessment, **SB 220 – Increasing the penalty for battery committed against a utility worker.**

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- This bill **will** have an impact on prison admissions and beds as well as the workload of the commission, but due to the lack of information about utility workers, it cannot be determined at this time.

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

Section 1. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 21-5413 is hereby amended to include "utility worker" which is defined as an employee of a Kansas registered utility company providing utility services such as electric, natural gas, broadband or cable services, water service, utility line clearance or line locate services. In addition, **battery against a utility worker is a level 7, person felony.**

FINDINGS

- In FY 2019, **738** offenders were convicted of the crime of battery. Of this number:
 - 5 battery;
 - 631 aggravated battery;
 - 77 battery against a law enforcement officer;
 - 18 aggravated battery against a law enforcement officer; and
 - 7 battery against a mental health employee.
- There is no information available regarding battery against utility worker in the Commission databases.

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