

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Senator Kellie Warren, Chair

KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION
Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
March 24, 2021

Proponent Testimony – HB 2374

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of this legislation on behalf of the Kansas Sentencing Commission. This bill provides for modification in the 2003 SB 123 and corrections statutes due to the implementation of new gender-responsive probation assessments due to begin July 1, 2021. The House passed this bill 124-0.

In K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 74-9101(b)(21), the legislature requires the Sentencing Commission to “be authorized to make statewide supervision and placement cutoff decisions based upon the risk levels and needs of the offender. The commission shall periodically review data and make recommended changes.” As a result of this charge, the Commission recently approved the use of two new probation assessments, one for females and one for the male population. These tools will be implemented by court services and community corrections on July 1, 2021, and these entities are already training on the administration of them.

HB 2374 amends K.S.A 2020 Supp. 21-6824, commonly known as the SB 123 substance abuse treatment statute, to allow the Commission to continue to comply with its statutory charge of designating the tools to use in making probation placement decisions. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 75-5291(a)(2) discusses community corrections probation placement and is also amended in the same spirit to allow for the anticipated gender-responsive assessments to be implemented. The new assessments have different risk levels and scoring, which necessitated the request to amend the language of the included statutes in the bill.

I appreciate your time and attention to the Kansas Sentencing Commission testimony, ask for your support, and be happy to answer questions. Thank you.