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Ray Roberts, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

Testimony on HB 2669  
to  
The House Government Efficiency Committee

By Ray Roberts  
Secretary  
Kansas Department of Corrections  
February 14, 2012

The Department of Corrections supports HB 2669. HB 2669 repeals the series of statutes that provide for the position of a "jail matron" for county jails. Those statutes were enacted in 1913. These statutes are outdated and no longer reflect contemporary jail operations, civil service ordinances, state and federal employment law, or the role of female law enforcement officers. HB 2669 is the result of Governor Brownback's initiative to repeal outmoded, unreasonable, duplicative or unduly burdensome statutes and regulations.

HB 2669 provides for the repeal of K.S.A. 19-901, 19-902, 19-903 and 19-904. A copy of those statutes is attached for the convenience of the Committee.

The department urges favorable consideration of HB 2669.

Statutes Repealed by HB 2669

**19-901. Appointment of matron; compensation and duties.** That the board of county commissioners of any county in this state may upon the nomination and recommendation of the sheriff of the county appoint and confirm a competent woman to be matron of the county jails of such county, and define her duties, and fix her compensation.

**19-902. Authority of matron; removal.** Such matrons, when so appointed by the board of county commissioners, shall be members of the sheriff's force, shall have all the authority now delegated to a deputy sheriff, and shall be subject to such rules and regulations as the board of county commissioners shall prescribe; and they shall be subject to removal for cause.

**19-903. Quarters.** The said board of county commissioners shall furnish the said matrons suitable rooms and accommodations in the jail buildings of said counties for the purposes of this act.

**19-904. Duties of matron.** It shall be the duties of such matrons, so long as any woman is detained and under arrest at said county jails, to remain at such jails for duty, they shall have the entire charge and care of all women so arrested and detained, and shall be the jailers in charge of the female department of said jail. They shall have authority to summon to their aid the sheriff of the county, or any of his deputies, and shall provide suitable accommodations for all women committed to their keeping.