Report of the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight to the 2022 Kansas Legislature

Chairperson: Representative J. Russell Jennings

Vice-Chairperson: Senator Molly Baumgardner

Ranking Minority Member: Representative Dennis “Boog” Highberger

Other Members: Senators Elaine Bowers, Ethan Corson, John Doll, Renee Erickson, Oletha Faust-Goudeau, and Kristen O'Shea; and Representatives Sydney Carlin, Gail Finney, Kyle Hoffman, Stephen Owens, and John Resman

Charge

KSA 2020 Supp. 46-2801 directs the Committee to monitor inmate and juvenile offender populations and to review and study the programs, activities, plans, and operations of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC).

The Committee studied issues relating to KDOC operations, employee retention, and appropriations and planning generally, and also considered the continuing implementation of the juvenile justice reforms originally enacted in 2016.

The Committee also reviewed and considered the following during the 2021 Interim:

- Compassionate medical release and terminal medical release under Kansas and federal law;
- Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSC) data and trends, and analysis of past legislative initiatives that were adopted;
- Perspectives on adult and juvenile community corrections issues by community stakeholders;
The Kansas Judicial Council report and recommendations concerning offender registration;

The Juvenile Evidence-based Programs Account; and

An update on the 2003 SB 123 Substance Abuse Treatment Program by the KSC and providers.

The Committee was authorized to tour the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (to observe daily operations) and the Lansing Correctional Facility (to observe the facility’s new construction and learn more about the facility’s substance abuse treatment program and career center initiative).
Conclusions and Recommendations

The Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight (Committee) recommends the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) Community and Field Services Division (Community Corrections) and the Secretary of Corrections immediately develop an incentives plan to include new-hire bonuses, retention bonuses, and referral bonuses, to be presented to the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Committee for payment from COVID-19 federal relief funds.

The Secretary of Corrections should then come before the 2022 Legislature with a pay enhancement package to address wages, night differentials, and premium pay.

The Committee recommends strong support for a $6.6 million proposal to use maintenance of effort funds for information technology upgrades for Wi-Fi devices and tablet computers, as well as equipment such as the welding tools and commercial driver training simulators, for educational programs at correctional facilities. If maintenance of effort moneys are not needed, the Committee recommends the SPARK Committee approve use of federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds for this purpose.

The Committee expressed concern regarding expenditures from the Evidence-based Programs Account being limited only to programs identified in the annual budgeting process, and suggests rolling grant application cycles be implemented. The Committee recommends the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary consider a bill that clarifies the distribution of funds in the Evidence-based Programs Account.

The Committee recommends allowing all KDOC employees to be included in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System Corrections Plan, with first priority given to juvenile correctional officers.

The Committee encourages the Senate Committee on Judiciary to take action on 2021 HB 2030, which would allow for the release of an inmate with a terminal medical condition likely to cause death within 120 days rather than within 30 days pursuant to current law. The Committee notes the House vote on February 10, 2021, was 96 Yeas and 29 Nays.

The Committee recommends the Legislature consider eliminating fines and fees for justice-involved youth to include expungement fees set by each county.

The Committee recommends KDOC conduct an outreach program, webinar, or campaign or some combination of those on how to apply for Evidence-based Programs Fund Account of the State General Fund moneys.

The Committee recommends adding funding for the creation of a Jobs for America’s Graduates – Kansas (JAG-K) program at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC).
The Committee recommends KDOC submit an appropriation request for Career Technical Education facility renovation at the KJCC.

The Committee recommends support of the offender registration bill, HB 2092, recommended by the Kansas Judicial Council’s Advisory Committee on Sex Offenses and Registration.

The Committee recommends postponing consideration of changes to Topeka Correctional Facility and KJCC until the report on regional juvenile correctional facilities from Clark & Enersen is complete; it is due July 1, 2022.

The Committee recommends the Legislature adopt the Kansas Sentencing Commission’s policy recommendations (ten bills introduced in the 2021 Session):

- Establishing a more robust KDOC compassionate release policy, HB 2030;
- Incentivizing offenders to be successful in prison, HB 2031;
- Incentivizing offenders to be successful on probation, HB 2084;
- Modifying offender registries, HB 2092;
- Clarifying multiple sentencing of offenders, HB 2081;
- Early release for certain drug offenders, HB 2147;
- Sentencing proportionality for drug possession offenses, HB 2139;
- Sentencing drug grid modification to reflect sentencing realities, HB 2146;
- Sentencing nondrug grid modification to reflect sentencing realities, HB 2350; and
- Sentencing proportionality of property crimes, SB 5.

Proposed Legislation: The Committee requests legislation be introduced in both the House and Senate:

- The Committee requests the filing of a bill that restores $21.1 million to the Evidence-based Programs Account. This bill would be introduced in both the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Appropriations; and

- The Committee requests the filing of a bill that would prohibit the physical restraint of juveniles in court appearances without a showing of just cause.

BACKGROUND

The 1997 Legislature created the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight (Committee) to provide legislative oversight of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and the Juvenile Justice Authority. Pursuant to Executive Reorganization Order No. 42, on July 1, 2013, the jurisdiction, powers, functions, and duties of the Juvenile Justice Authority and the Commissioner of Juvenile Justice were transferred to KDOC and the Secretary of Corrections.

Statewide, there are eight adult correctional facilities: El Dorado Correctional Facility, Ellsworth Correctional Facility, Hutchinson Correctional Facility, Lansing Correctional Facility, Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility, Norton Correctional Facility, Topeka Correctional Facility, and Winfield Correctional Facility. KDOC also operates parole offices throughout the state and is responsible for the
administration of funding and oversight of local community corrections programs.

There is one operational juvenile correctional facility: the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC). Individuals as young as 10 and as old as 17 may be adjudicated as juvenile offenders and remain in custody in a juvenile correctional facility until age 22.5 and in the community until age 23.

The Committee’s duties, as outlined in KSA 2020 Supp. 46-2801(k), are to monitor the inmate population and review and study KDOC’s programs, activities, and plans regarding its statutorily prescribed duties, including the implementation of expansion projects; the operation of correctional food service and other programs for inmates; community corrections; parole; and the condition and operation of the correctional institutions and other facilities under KDOC’s control and supervision. The Committee is also charged to review and study the adult correctional programs, activities, and facilities of counties, cities, and other local governmental entities, including the programs and activities of private entities operating community correctional programs and facilities, and the condition and operation of jails and other local governmental facilities for the incarceration of adult offenders.

With regard to juvenile offenders, KSA 2020 Supp. 46-2801(k) directs the Committee to review and study programs, activities, and plans involving juvenile offenders, including the responsibility for their care, custody, control, and rehabilitation, and the condition and operation of the juvenile correctional facilities. Further, the Committee is charged to review and study the juvenile offender programs, activities, and facilities of counties, cities, school districts, and other local governmental entities, including programs for the reduction and prevention of juvenile crime and delinquency; programs and activities of private entities operating community juvenile programs and facilities; and the condition and operation of local governmental residential or custodial facilities for the care, treatment, or training of juvenile offenders.

In addition to its statutory duties, the 2021 Committee was charged by the Legislative Coordinating Council to study the following topics:

- Compassionate medical release and terminal medical release under Kansas and federal law;
- Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSC) data and trends, and analysis of past legislative initiatives that were adopted;
- Perspectives on adult and juvenile community corrections issues by community stakeholders;
- The Kansas Judicial Council report and recommendations concerning offender registration;
- The Evidence-based Programs Account of the State General Fund; and
- An update on the 2003 SB 123 Substance Abuse Treatment Program by the KSC and providers.

**COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

The Committee requested and received Legislative Coordinating Council approval for three meeting days and authorization to tour the Lansing Correctional Facility and the KJCC. The Committee met October 25, 26, and 27, 2021, at the Leavenworth Public Library and the Statehouse. The Committee also toured the Lansing Correctional Facility on October 25 and the KJCC on October 27.

**October 25, 2021, Meeting**

**Overview—Kansas Sentencing Commission**

The Executive Director of the KSC presented an overview of the agency and its annual report, prison population projections, and policy recommendations.

The Executive Director stated that, among other activities, the KSC provides bed impact analyses to the Legislature during the Legislative
Session; serves as the state statistical analysis center for criminal justice, including maintaining a database of sentencing and probation revocation journal entries; maintains and updates the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Desk Reference Manual; produces annual bed population and inmate classification projections for KDOC; and administers 2003 SB 123 drug abuse treatment program payments to treatment providers.

Reviewing the annual report, the Executive Director stated that, in FY 2020, the top five offenses resulting in prison, probation, and jail sentences were drug offenses, theft, burglary, aggravated battery, and criminal threat. He discussed the race, gender, ethnicity, and age distributions of offenders. The Executive Director also discussed admissions to KDOC facilities, stating admissions decreased by 29.0 percent in FY 2020, and the number of probation sentences decreased by 23.2 percent, which is attributed to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. He further stated that of the 3,227 probation drug offenses in FY 2020, 79.8 percent were for possession offenses. The four counties with the largest numbers of prison, probation, and jail sentences were Sedgwick, Johnson, Wyandotte, and Shawnee, whose sentences totaled 47.1 percent of the total sentences statewide.

Regarding FY 2022 prison population projections, the Executive Director stated that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had reduced the prison population and prison admissions. He reported an adult prison population of 8,556 in 2021, which is down from 9,189 in 2020, with a total capacity of 10,364. By 2031, the prison population is projected to decrease to 8,172, with both male and female populations projected to remain below current capacity. He stated these projections would provide the Legislature with an opportunity to keep prison admission numbers down by drawing on the criminal justice reform efforts currently underway, including by supporting probationers with needed support during their supervision.

The Executive Director discussed the KSC’s policy recommendations for the 2022 Legislative Session. The recommendations include several bills that were introduced in the 2021 Session but that did not pass both chambers of the Legislature. These policy recommendations include extending compassionate release eligibility (HB 2030); allowing earned discharge credit while in prison or on probation (HB 2031; HB 2084); modifying offender registries (HB 2092); clarifying multiple and concurrent sentencing of offenders (HB 2081); allowing early release to probation for certain drug offenders (HB 2147); addressing sentencing proportionality with regard to several crimes or classes of crimes (HB 2139, SB 5); and expansion of presumptive probation and border boxes on the drug and nondrug grids (HB 2146, HB 2350).

The Executive Director addressed questions and concerns from the Committee on topics including an analysis of felony domestic violence cases for the last three fiscal years; the number of felony cases with appointed counsel versus retained counsel, and the likelihood of trial versus plea deal in FY 2020; comparisons to prison population shifts in the surrounding states; the demographic breakdown of Hispanic offenders in FY 2020; and clarification that the KSC includes Hispanic offenders with white offenders for purposes of race demographics.

October 26, 2021, Meeting

Overview—Kansas Open Meetings Act and Kansas Open Records Act

A Senior Assistant Revisor from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes provided an overview of the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) and the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) for the Committee.

The Senior Assistant Revisor stated KOMA declares it is the public policy of the State of Kansas that meetings for the conduct of governmental affairs and the transaction of governmental business be open to the public (KSA 75-4317).

The Senior Assistant Revisor stated KORA declares it is public policy of the State of Kansas that meetings for the conduct of governmental affairs and the transaction of governmental business be open to the public (KSA 75-4317).

The Senior Assistant Revisor stated KORA declares it is public policy of the State of Kansas that public records be open for inspection by any person unless otherwise prohibited in the Act (KSA 45-216). KORA requires each public agency to adopt procedures to be followed in requesting access to and obtaining copies of public records. The Senior Assistant Revisor noted this Committee is a public agency under the KORA.
Overview—Kansas Department of Corrections

The Secretary of Corrections (Secretary) provided information on various KDOC operations and issues.

Staffing Shortages and Impacts

The Secretary described current KDOC staffing issues, including critical staff shortages and vacancies, causes of recruiting and retention challenges, and the resulting impacts on public safety.

The Secretary stated supervision of juvenile and adult correctional populations directly impacts the safety of Kansas communities. He noted staffing shortages in the correctional field are being seen throughout the nation in local, state, and federal facilities.

The Secretary noted emerging challenges have been added to the always-present challenges of employment in corrections. These include changing views on social justice, increased expectations for flexible work schedules and work-life balance, new expectations for work-from-home options, and diminishing numbers of people in the potential workforce. The Secretary noted some common strategies to address staffing challenges are to increase overtime; implement 12-hour shifts; close units or facilities; reduce programs and services for inmates; increase inmate time in cells; increase advertising and recruiting; increase caseloads and reduce supervision; and improve compensation with increased hourly wages, signing bonuses, and retention bonuses. The Secretary stated KDOC has not been able to increase wages or provide bonuses.

The Secretary described staffing shortage impacts on the agency, the employees, the inmates, and the public.

In the community corrections area, the majority of staff working with juvenile offenders and adult felony probationers are supervised by local community corrections agencies. The Secretary stated a pay increase for court services officers and the addition of 70 full-time equivalent positions within the Judicial Branch for court services officers, approved by the 2021 Legislature (in 2021 SB 159), creates competition and contributes to the workforce challenge in community corrections. The secretary noted that additionally, without adequate staff to provide effective programming and supervision, juvenile and adult facility populations are anticipated to increase.

The Secretary stated a shortage of parole officers is reducing the supervision of people on post-release supervision in the community. This shortage leads to high caseloads for parole officers, and effective behavior interventions cannot be maintained. Additionally, collaboration with families and service providers is declining, resulting in less support for the person on supervision.

The Secretary stated the adult programming and reentry area has seen more than 30.0 percent turnover of staff in FY 2021. The pandemic mitigation measures and this staff turnover have caused the number of people served to decline by one-third when compared to FY 2019.

The Secretary stated there is a 31.0 percent vacancy rate among uniformed staff at the KJCC and, although juvenile population projections indicate a need to open another housing unit soon, there is currently not adequate staff to do so.

The Secretary stated the adult correctional facility staffing shortages have required modified operations, including implementation of 12-hour shifts, consolidating housing units to shrink the footprint and therefore number of staff needed, and lockdowns imposed for safety of staff and residents. The Secretary said there is a “dire need” for staffing solutions because, as of the date of the meeting, the facilities had 405 vacancies among uniformed officer positions and an additional 119 positions on extended leave.

The Secretary also noted staffing shortages of the KDOC medical services contractor impact the daily care of residents at facilities.

The Secretary stated the agency is also experiencing a loss of experienced employees, resulting in a less effective workforce, an increase in overtime costs for FY 2022, some parole offices with no staff, lack of mentorship by managers and
supervisors due to them covering vacancies, exhausted staff, and increased use of employee counseling services provided through the Employee Assistance Program.

Capital Projects and Infrastructure

The Secretary reviewed the regional juvenile facilities study requested by the 2021 Legislature to explore repurposing the KJCC, establishing three or more smaller juvenile facilities, and future plans for the Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility and other underutilized correctional system facilities. The study results are to be submitted to the Legislature by July 1, 2022.

The Secretary stated that a proposed capital improvement project at the Topeka Correctional Facility is in the design and planning phase. This project is to improve medical and behavioral health and visitation for women inmates, and also to create a single point of entry to the facility. The Secretary stated the projects at the Lansing and Winfield facilities to repurpose buildings for substance abuse treatment and geriatric care are underway and should house residents by October 2022. Additionally, the new kitchen and dining renovation at Winfield is underway and should be completed in December 2022. These projects may be impacted by current supply chain disruptions.

The Secretary stated a contract for an independent conditions assessment of all KDOC facilities was awarded, and the preliminary findings assessed 254 structures built between 1860 and 2015. The final assessment report will guide the agency in planning for future bed utilization, establishing funding priorities, and identifying the most immediate safety and security needs. This assessment will aid the agency in determining the disposition of vacant structures, such as the old Lansing Penitentiary and former Topeka Juvenile Correctional Facility.

The Secretary stated the Career Campus Program at the Lansing Correctional Facility, which is an employer partnership providing job skill training for residents, is a success but needs more adequate space. Pursuant to 2021 HB 2401, the agency has established a nonprofit board to raise funds for construction of a 45,000-square-foot education and training center.

Corrections Updates

The Secretary gave an update on the first phase of replacing an obsolete information technology (IT) system used by local juvenile and adult community corrections agencies. The second phase will replace an obsolete IT system used at the KJCC and adult facilities.

The Secretary stated that there is an increased interest by private industry to hire residents and former residents of the facilities.

The Secretary updated the Committee on a pilot project at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility to photocopy incoming inmate mail to reduce the introduction of contraband into the facilities. Due to an increase in the introduction of illicit drugs into correctional facilities, KDOC has increased facility searches, recovery services through providers, training of residents as peer recovery coaches, staff training, and increased use of ion detection equipment.

Evidence-based Programs Account

The Secretary updated the Committee regarding expenditures from the Evidence-based Programs Account of the State General Fund (SGF), which supports community-based juvenile justice programs and efforts. Appropriations to this account were reduced, pursuant to 2021 HB 2007. For FY 2021, the account had an ending balance of $21.5 million. A total of $12.5 million SGF was appropriated to the account for FY 2022. If there are no further adjustments to this annual appropriation, the agency estimates current programs could be sustained until FY 2028.

Overview—Adult and Juvenile Community Corrections

Five representatives of adult and juvenile community corrections associations and agencies provided an overview. Community corrections agencies in Kansas are part of county governments and make up 31 statutorily mandated programs that provide community-based supervision of adults and juvenile offenders rather than incarceration.

The representatives highlighted the following current issues impacting the provision of public safety services in communities.
2016 SB 367 Juvenile Justice Changes

The presenters stated the enactment of 2016 SB 367, a juvenile justice reform bill, eliminated most out-of-home juvenile placements; however, the shift of funding to community corrections agencies for programming has not completely occurred, causing stress and friction. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature lapsed $21.1 million of the approximately $44.0 million in the Evidence-based Programs Account, savings from discontinuation of out-of-home placements. [Note: KSA 75-52,164 requires the determination of costs avoided from decreased reliance on juvenile incarceration.] The presenters stated there have been numerous efforts to shift or eliminate the funding and that those funds need to be invested wisely with KDOC and stakeholder input.

Adult Supervision Salary Issues

The presenters stated community corrections associations, advisory committees, and agencies are working with KDOC to address the need for increased grant funding to local units of government for adult community corrections. Community corrections agency employees are county employees, even though funding comes from the State for most agencies. The increase in grant funding for FY 2023 would help address increased caseloads, increased pay for employees to reduce turnover, and inflation costs, they said.

The presenters also provided information regarding changes in criminal law that impact the supervision population; funding related to 2003 SB 123 substance abuse treatment programs; and issues related to juveniles in the child welfare system, the criminal justice system, or the foster care system.

Overview—Kansas Judicial Council Report on Offender Registration

Four members of the Kansas Judicial Council’s Advisory Committee on Offender Registration, including Representative Humphries, presented the Committee with recommendations to reform the Kansas Offender Registration Act (Act). During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Advisory Committee recommended the passage of 2021 HB 2349, to reform the Act by creating an exit mechanism for offenders; redefine violations of the Act; create a fee waiver process; amend registration requirements for specific sex offenses, drug offenses, and violent offenses; require single-point registration in county of residence only; allow parties to agree to registration for non-Act offenses; and clarify that municipal court convictions are not registrable under the Act. [Note: HB 2349 was stricken from the House calendar on March 5, 2021.]

Public Comment

The Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees addressed the Committee on behalf of the Governor’s Council on Education regarding one-time expenditures that allow for additional educational programming at KDOC facilities. These expenditures total $6.6 million for IT upgrades, tablet computers, and equipment purchases, and could be eligible for federal relief funding from American Rescue Plan Act moneys. If not, such SGF expenditures may qualify as state Maintenance of Effort required by the American Rescue Plan Act for higher education.

The Executive Director of the Kansas Children’s Service League addressed the Committee about the League’s evidence-based programming and noted limitations on use of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Fund, including how evidence-based programming is defined and expanding the eligibility of youth to include those who are eligible for level one diversion. [Note: The Juvenile Justice Improvement Fund was renamed as the Evidence-based Programs Account of the State General Fund by enactment of 2017 House Sub. for SB 42.]

The Campaign Director of Kansas Appleseed addressed the Committee regarding the Evidence-based Programs Account and asked that the $21.1 million taken from the account be rededicated to youth justice spending. He also also discussed the lack of mental health support for young people in crisis, elimination of fines and fees for justice-involved youth, and the lack of Kansas laws governing restraint of children in the courtroom.

A representative of TeamWorks addressed the Committee on their program, which provides penalties for registration violators; redefine violations of the Act; create a fee waiver process; amend registration requirements for specific sex offenses, drug offenses, and violent offenses; require single-point registration in county of residence only; allow parties to agree to registration for non-Act offenses; and clarify that municipal court convictions are not registrable under the Act. [Note: HB 2349 was stricken from the House calendar on March 5, 2021.]
A retired correctional officer from the Lansing Correctional Facility addressed the Committee regarding the lack of safety, security, and control at the facility. He discussed staffing shortages and other management issues of concern.

A youth leader from Progeny addressed the Committee and thanked lawmakers for the passage of 2016 SB 367 and urged the reallocation of $21.0 million back to the Evidence-based Programs Account in the upcoming Legislative Session.

The President of Jobs for America’s Graduates Kansas (JAG-K), with the principal of the Gardner-Lawrence High School at KJCC, provided an overview of the JAG-K program. The organization helps students prepare for a successful future through in-school programing that teaches leadership and career development skills. The principal requested additional funding for KJCC to support the JAG-K program.

Comments were submitted to the Committee in written-only format from the Executive Committee of the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, requesting the decision to reduce moneys in the Evidence-based Programs Account be revisited; and representatives of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association, regarding provisions of 2021 HB 2349.

October 27, 2021, Meeting

Overview—Compassionate and Medical Release

The Committee heard an overview on compassionate and medical release from two policy analysts from the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center. The analysts defined medical parole, geriatric parole or parole for older adults, and compassionate release.

The CSG analysts presented information on parole and compassionate release policies in other states and requirements imposed on people seeking this kind of release. They stated many other states’ policies also include victim notification and offense carve-outs (which exclude those found guilty of certain criminal offenses), require offenders serving a defined portion of a minimum sentence, and define qualifying age-related infirmity or illness. In nearly all states, the final release decision is made by the paroling authority or the corrections department.

The CSG analysts answered Committee member questions regarding where the released person could be housed and cared for and how that could be funded.

Conclusions and Recommendations

At the end of its October 27 meeting, following discussion, the Committee adopted the following recommendations.

The Committee requests Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) approval for the filing of a bill that restores $21.1 million SGF to the Evidence-based Programs Account, an amount lapsed in FY 2021. This bill would be introduced in both the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Appropriations. The Committee requests LCC approval for the filing of a bill that would prohibit the physical restraint of juveniles in court appearances without a showing of just cause. [Note: the LCC approved the filing of such bills by interim committees at their October 26, 2021, meeting.]

The Committee recommends the KDOC Community and Field Services Division (Community Corrections) and the Secretary of Corrections immediately develop an incentives plan to include new-hire, retention, and referral bonuses, to be presented to the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Committee for payment from COVID-19 federal relief funds. The Secretary of Corrections should then come before the 2022 Legislature with a pay enhancement package to address wages, night differentials, and premium pay.

The Committee recommends strong support for a $6.6 million proposal to use maintenance of effort funds for IT upgrades for Wi-Fi devices and tablet computers, as well as the equipment such as welding tools and simulators used for commercial
driver training for educational programs at correctional facilities. If maintenance of effort funds are not needed, then the Committee recommends the SPARK Committee approve use of federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds for those purchases.

The Committee expressed concern regarding expenditures from the Evidence-based Programs Account being limited only to programs identified in the annual budgeting process, and suggested that rolling grant application cycles be implemented. The Committee recommends the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary consider a bill that clarifies the distribution for funds from the Evidence-based Programs Account.

The Committee recommends allowing all KDOC employees to be included in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System Corrections Plan, with first priority given to juvenile correctional officers.

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The Committee recommends the Legislature consider eliminating fines and fees for justice-involved youth, to include expungement fees set by each county.

The Committee recommends KDOC conduct an outreach program, webinar, or campaign or some combination of those on how to apply for Evidence-based Program Account moneys.

The Committee recommends adding funding for the JAG-K program at the KJCC.

The Committee recommends KDOC submit an appropriation request for Career Technical Education facility renovation at the KJCC.

The Committee recommends support of the offender registration bill recommended by the Kansas Judicial Council’s Advisory Committee on Sex Offenses and Registration.

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The Committee recommends the Legislature adopt the Kansas Sentencing Commission’s policy recommendations regarding ten bills introduced in the 2021 Session:

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