



KANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Vicki Schmidt, Commissioner

Proponent Testimony on SB 303 – Fingerprinting Employees and Contractors for Insurance Dept.

February 6, 2020

Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 303. The Legislature previously passed legislation requiring any new applicant for an insurance license to submit to a fingerprint background check.

The purposes of SB 303 is to grant the Commissioner the authority to hold employees of the Insurance Department to the same standard that we hold new license applicants. There are a number of employees that are already required to submit fingerprints as part of their position. However, the requirements for those positions come through other statutes as they are positions that are not exclusively insurance in nature. Examples of these positions already submitting to fingerprint background checks include IT and fraud investigators.

There are positions at the department that handle incredibly complex and sensitive information ranging from financial information for companies to personal information of applicants and consumers. We believe it is important that we can verify the background of employees to protect the information at the department. Additionally, there is an argument for fairness. We are not asking employees to undergo anything beyond what we ask new agent applicants to go through.

In our view, this bill gives the Commissioner the necessary and proper authority to conduct background checks on employees and contractors who have access to sensitive information.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 303 and I would be happy to take questions at the appropriate time.

Lee Modesitt
Director of Government Affairs & Communications