

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Olson at 10:30 am on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, in room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Andrew Finzen, Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jordan Milholland, Legislative Research Department
Leighann Thone, Legislative Research Department
Michael Welton, Committee Assistant
Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Webex Technician

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Derek Schmidt, Kansas Attorney General
Sheriff Jeff Easter, Kansas Sheriffs Association
Sister Theresa Bangert, Sisters of Charity
Judy Ancel, The Cross Border Network
Connie Brown Collins, Self
Rabbi Moti Rieber, Interfaith
Lindsie Ford, Kansas Coalition Against Sex and Domestic Violence

Others in attendance:

No list available

Chairman Olson convened the meeting.

MEETING TIME HAS CHANGED to 8:30 am Tuesday 144-S

Request for bill introductions

There were no bill introduction requests.

Hearing on: HB2717 — Prohibiting any municipality from preventing the enforcement of federal immigration laws, requiring municipal law enforcement agencies to provide written notice to each law enforcement officer of the officer's duty to cooperate with state and federal agencies in the enforcement of immigration laws and requiring any municipal identification card to state on its face that it is not valid for state identification.

The Chairman opened the hearing on the bill and called upon Michael Heim for a revisor overview of

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the bill.

The Chairman called for testimony on the bill.

Proponent General Derek Schmidt claimed that the ordinance contains provisions that raise public-safety, public-policy and rule of law concerns. General Schmidt stated three points supporting his opinion that Kansas should cooperate and not have a patchwork of municipality approaches governing how state and local law enforcement officers and agencies may interact with federal authorities enforcing federal immigration law:

First, the overarching purpose and problem of the county ordinance in question is to impede the enforcement of federal immigration law in Wyandotte County by prohibiting or restricting the ability of local authorities to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement authorities.

Secondly, the identification cards authorized by the municipal ordinance fail to provide protection of state identification cards beyond the boundaries of a single municipality.

Finally, he stated that the obvious purpose of the ordinance is to hinder or impede the enforcement of federal law through a policy of local non-cooperation. The General cited that the task specifically assigned to the federal government is enumerated in the United States Constitution and the ordinance represents an affront to basic rule-of-law principals. The General criticized the effort of "local politics to dictate non-cooperation with federal authorities attempting to enforce laws that Congress unquestionably had the constitutional authority (and duty) to enact."

[\(Attachment 1\)](#)

Proponent Sheriff Jeff Easter emphasized that the local ordinance is intended to obstruct federal investigations handicapping law enforcement's ability to protect immigrants who are victimized by criminal elements.

[\(Attachment 2\)](#)

Committee questions and comments ensued.

Opponent Sister Theresa Bangert described the processes and rationale behind the motivation to prohibit local law enforcement to cooperate with federal authorities.

[\(Attachment 3\)](#)

Opponent Judy Ansel focused on describing and justifying the elements of the Safe and Welcoming

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City Act and asserted that the local municipality knows what is best for its citizens.

[\(Attachment 4\)](#)

Opponent Connie Brown Collins asserted that the local municipality knows what is best for its citizens.

[\(Attachment 5\)](#)

Opponent Rabbi Moti Rieber asserted that in the absence of reform, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County felt compelled to refuse to comply with federal laws.

[\(Attachment 6\)](#)

Opponent Lindsie Ford claimed that the passage of this bill could be detrimental to immigrant survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

[\(Attachment 7\)](#)

Committee questions and comments ensued.

Written-Only Opponent:

Dr. James Perales, Self

[\(Attachment 8\)](#)

Monsignor Swetland, Self

[\(Attachment 9\)](#)

Emma Green, Safe and Welcoming - Roeland Park (S&FRP)

[\(Attachment 10\)](#)

Stephenie Iser, S&FRP

[\(Attachment 11\)](#)

Dr. Mildred Edwards, Unified Government of Wyandotte County

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[\(Attachment 12\)](#)

John Goodyear, League of Kansas Municipalities

[\(Attachment 13\)](#)

Rija Nazir, Student

[\(Attachment 14\)](#)

Asma Easa, American Council on Immigration

[\(Attachment 15\)](#)

Marcus Winn, MORE

[\(Attachment 16\)](#)

Tyrone Garner, Self

[\(Attachment 17\)](#)

Mark Dupree, Wyandotte County District Attorney

[\(Attachment 18\)](#)

Michael Rebne, S&WRP

[\(Attachment 19\)](#)

Caleb Smith, Kansas Appleseed

[\(Attachment 20\)](#)

Rev. Rick Behrens, Grandview Park Presb. Church

[\(Attachment 21\)](#)

Andrew Davis, Self

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[\(Attachment 22\)](#)

Christian Ramirez, Self

[\(Attachment 23\)](#)

Karla Juarez, Self

[\(Attachment 24\)](#)

Mellisa Stiehler, Self

[\(Attachment 25\)](#)

Seeing no additional testimony the Chairman closed the hearing on the bill.

Hearing on: HB2644 — Designating the Sandhill plum as the official state fruit.

The Chairman opened the hearing and called upon Michael Heim for a revisor overview of the bill.

The Chairman called for testimony on the bill.

Proponent Harley Brown representing Valley Falls Elementary school explained that students from more than 25 schools across Kansas researched a number of candidate fruits and voted to promote the Sandhill Plum to be the official state fruit.

[\(Attachment 26\)](#)

Proponent Grant Stapleton representing Sabetha Elementary School suggested that the Sandhill Plum provides animal habitat, feeds birds and its sweet taste makes excellent jellies and jams.

[\(Attachment 27\)](#)

Proponent Evva Deters representing Sabetha Elementary School explained that students from more than 24 schools researched a short list of four fruits (American Persimmon, Mulberry, Gooseberry and Sandhill Plum), before voting to select the Sandhill Plum.

[\(Attachment 28\)](#)

Proponent Emily Eaton representing Valley Falls Elementary School informed the committee that the Sandhill Plum is native to Kansas, reddish pink when ripe, has a tangy sweet taste and can be found

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almost anywhere in Kansas.

[\(Attachment 29\)](#)

Proponent Hannah Huffman representing Sabetha Elementary School thanked the committee for the opportunity to see how much work and dedication it takes to make a law.

[\(Attachment 30\)](#)

Proponent Jake Menold representing Sabetha Elementary School explained that Sandhill Plum grows on a bush that can be found in natural Kansas prairies and is commonly used to establish windbreaks, wildlife habitat and erosion control.

[\(Attachment 31\)](#)

Proponent Peyton Burge representing Sabetha Elementary School reported to the committee that the Kansas House of Representatives passed the bill favorably with a 115 to 7 vote.

[\(Attachment 32\)](#)

Proponent Teghan O'Rourke representing Healy Elementary School in Western Kansas stated that the Sandhill Plum that lives for 15 to 25 years can be grown in sand, dirt or even clay.

[\(Attachment 33\)](#)

Proponent Tyson Detweiler representing Sabetha Elementary School declared that the Sandhill Plum is so popular it is also known as the Chickasaw Plum, the Cherokee Plum, the Florida Plum, or just the Sand Plum.

[\(Attachment 34\)](#)

Proponent Tanith Montgomery representing Sabetha Elementary School explained the extensive research, debate and effort of her fellow students to get the attention and action of important committee chairman in both chambers.

[\(Attachment 35\)](#)

Committee comments and question ensued.

Seeing no additional testimony the Chairman closed the hearing.

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Discussion & action on: HB2644 — Designating the Sandhill plum as the official state fruit.

The Chairman opened discussion on **HB 2644**.

Committee discussion ensued.

Vice-Chairman Hilderbrand made a conceptual motion to put the announcement of the bill into the register and the motion was seconded by Senator Straub. The motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Hilderbrand motioned to pass the bill out of committee favorably as amended and the motion was seconded by Ranking Minority Member Faust-Goudeau. The motion passed.

The Chairman concluded the discussion on the bill with high praise for the successful efforts of the students and teachers.

Discussion & action on: HB2717 — Prohibiting any municipality from preventing the enforcement of federal immigration laws, requiring municipal law enforcement agencies to provide written notice to each law enforcement officer of the officer's duty to cooperate with state and federal agencies in the enforcement of immigration laws and requiring any municipal identification card to state on its face that it is not valid for state identification.

The Chairman opened discussion on **HB 2717**.

Committee discussion ensued.

Senator Holscher motioned to table the bill and the motion was seconded by Ranking Minority Member Faust-Goudeau.

Vice Chairman Hilderbrand made a substitute motion that the bill be passed out of committee favorably and the motion was seconded by Senator Straub. The motion passed.

Senators Holscher and Ranking Minority Member Faust-Goudeau requested that their "nay" votes on the substitute motion be recorded.

Possible action on bills previously heard

No action was taken on bills previously heard.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:58 am. There is no meeting schedule for this committee at this time.