

HCS HB 640 & 729 -- KANSAS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPONSOR: Sharp (37)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 5 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 640 & 729.

This bill removes the age requirement of being under 60 years old to become the Chief of Police for the Kansas City Police Department. The bill also eliminates the current authorized salary ceiling for the Kansas City police chief, and allows the Board of Police Commissioners to establish a salary ceiling by resolution.

The bill additionally eliminates the existing salary ceilings for police officers, computed according to rank, and stipulates that the Board use the salary minimums as a base in pay ranges for officers in crafting their comprehensive pay schedule program.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that these changes will allow for the Board to be more competitive and flexible to hire qualified candidates that the current law excluded from being considered. The Board will be able to keep up with current practices with these changes. Kansas City wants these changes and they will allow them to have the proper tools to take care of their police department and the public. This bill would put Kansas City in a better position to recruit the best candidates for the job and increases efficiency as it will not require the legislature to have to update the law every few years.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sharp; K.C.P.D. Board of Police Commissioners; Greater Kansas City Chamber, Civic Council of Kansas City; Quinton Lucas, City of Kansas City; and Brad Lemen, Kansas City Fraternal Order of Police.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill submitted written testimony.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.