



Secretary Joe Norwood

Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.

Neutral Testimony on SB 336  
To  
The Senate Judiciary Committee

By Liz Rice  
Kansas Department of Corrections  
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The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) appreciates the opportunity to provide information to the Committee regarding our release process and the services available to persons who are released from the KDOC due to a vacated conviction or sentence.

When offenders are admitted to the KDOC they are placed at a Reception and Diagnostic Unit (RDU) to receive medical and mental health assessments as well as other testing to determine what types of programs will help to reduce their chance of reoffending.

The information gathered at RDU is used to encourage the offender to engage with recommended programs. Their length of time to serve will determine which programs they have time to complete and in what order they may complete those programs.

Some of those programs are GED, vocational training, offender workforce development, and on the job training in correctional industries. Some move to full-time jobs with a private industry and earn a wage that is similar to those in the community.

A percentage of those private industry wages are set aside in a mandatory savings account. In addition to the savings from wages, funds that inmates receive from sources exterior to the KDOC are subject to a mandatory withholding of 10 percent. These funds are deposited into a forced savings account that accrues interest. Funds from both savings accounts along with any money in the person's cash account will be given to the to the account holder upon release.

When a court order is received that releases a person earlier than planned, the person may not have completed all of their recommended programs or have completed a discharge plan as to where that person will reside upon release. However, the person will receive the funds from his or her inmate banking account. In some cases, this amount can be several thousands of dollars.

For those persons still incarcerated at a KDOC facility when the court order is received, they will be given a debit card with their funds and a supply of their prescribed medication and a referral for follow-up care if necessary. The re-entry office will also work with them on transportation and housing

if needed. Persons released from a jail or courtroom would not receive medication from the KDOC medical contractor but those persons would receive their funds from inmate banking.

For those with no home plan or who may need other help in the community, the KDOC's re-entry and parole offices have services available. The KDOC emphasizes the development of community partnerships and resources to help those released be successful.

These resources may include, but are not limited to: housing specialists, transportation vouchers, employment specialists, and referral to community programs such as substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and clothing and food banks.

A review was completed of all cases for the past five years that were released on appeal bond or by other order of the court after their conviction or sentence was overturned.

Of 103 cases, 75 were resentenced, 22 had the cases dismissed, and 6 are still pending.

<b>Of the 22 dismissed cases their highest severity levels were:</b>	
<b>Severity Level</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Off Grid – Life Sentence</b>	4
<b>Non Drug Grid 1</b>	1
<b>Non Drug Grid 3</b>	1
<b>Non Drug Grid 4</b>	1
<b>Non Drug Grid 5</b>	2
<b>Non Drug Grid 6</b>	2
<b>Non Drug Grid 9</b>	1
<b>Drug Grid 1</b>	2
<b>Drug Grid 2</b>	1
<b>Drug Grid 4</b>	4
<b>Drug Grid 5</b>	2
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Time DUI</b>	1