

Testimony on HB 2337
to
The House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

By Ray Roberts
Secretary
Kansas Department of Corrections
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The Department of Corrections supports HB 2337. HB 2337 repeals references to conservation camps in various sentencing statutes and additionally amends K.S.A. 75-5291 which governs community corrections grants to address the consolidation of the former Juvenile Justice Authority with the Department of Corrections.

In regard to community corrections grants, the proposed amendment on page 30 line 38 inserts the word “adult” to continue the restriction that while a community corrections program receiving grant funds from the department when the department only provided community corrections funds for adult services could provide juvenile community corrections services provided they did not use funds from the Department of Corrections. Those community corrections entities would receive grants for juvenile services from the Juvenile Justice Authority. With the consolidation of the Juvenile Justice Authority with the Department of Corrections, grants for both juvenile and adult community corrections services are issued by the department and is therefore necessary to specify in K.S.A. 75-5291 that adult grants may not be used for juvenile services.

The department also supports deleting references to conservation camps throughout the criminal code. The department discontinued operation of conservation camps in FY2009. Thus, placement in a conservation camp is no longer a sentencing option. The conservation camp program, commonly called “boot camp” was designed to house first time non violent offenders in a paramilitary setting with an emphasis on physical labor and exercise. Upon completion of a 6 month program, the offender would be returned to community corrections supervision. The research on the effectiveness of boot camps indicates conservation camps do not improve recidivism rates.

The former conservation camp at Oswego, Kansas now serves as a correctional facility for geriatric inmates. The department urges favorable consideration for HB 2337.