

Testimony on HB 2015
to
The House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

By Ray Roberts
Secretary
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The Department of Corrections supports HB 2015. HB 2015 would amend the provisions of K.S.A. 38-2369 which governs when juveniles may be incarcerated in the department's juvenile correctional facilities. HB 2015 would prohibit a court from committing juvenile offenders to juvenile correctional facilities for misdemeanor offenses.

The Department of Corrections' Juvenile Division currently operates two juvenile correctional facilities, the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex in Topeka and the Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility in Larned. Therefore, juvenile misdemeanor offenders sentenced to juvenile correctional facilities are incarcerated with juveniles who have been adjudicated as having committed the most violent offenses defined by the criminal code. Additionally, confinement at a juvenile correctional facility usually entails moving the child a substantial distance from his or her community, school, family and local support networks.

During FY14, 48 juvenile misdemeanants were sentenced to a juvenile correctional facility. The cost of confining a single offender at a juvenile facility for six months is over \$45,000. Kansas ranks ninth in the nation per 100,000 for the number of youth residing in juvenile detention, correctional and/or residential facilities.

The department believes the use of high security correctional facilities should be reserved for the most serious offenders. The department urges favorable consideration of HB 2015.