

SB 874 -- KANSAS CITY POLICE OFFICER REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: Shields (Pratt)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 4.

This bill repeals provisions of law which currently prohibit any Kansas City police officer from:

- (1) Belonging to a committee of a political party;
- (2) Soliciting a person to vote for or against any political candidate;
- (3) Making or soliciting contributions of any kind for political activity; or
- (4) Allowing any solicitation for political contributions on police department property.

The provision which prohibits any person from soliciting a police officer or a member of the police board for any political purpose is also repealed.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that they are only asking that Kansas City police officers be given the same opportunities under state law to engage in the political process that all other police departments in the state enjoy.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Shields; Kansas City Police Officers Association; and Missouri State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it is bad public policy to politicize the police department, and it may affect the public's perception of police officers, who should be trusted.

Testifying against the bill were Kansas City Police Board; and Board of Police Commissioners.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst