

SB 216 -- FIRST RESPONDER POLITICAL ACTIVITY

This bill specifies that a political subdivision of the state cannot prohibit any first responder from engaging in any political activity while off duty and not in uniform, from being a candidate for elected or appointed public office, or from holding the office unless the political activity or candidacy is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.

Currently, an employee of the Kansas City Police Department is prohibited from soliciting any assessment, contribution, or payment for any political purpose from any other employee and from soliciting for any purpose in any building or room occupied for the discharge of the official duties of the department. The bill repeals these provisions and specifies that an employee of the department is not allowed to solicit for any political purpose in any building or room occupied for the discharge of the official duties of the department.

The provision prohibiting an employee of the department from directly or indirectly giving, paying, lending, or contributing any part of his or her salary, compensation, money, or other valuable thing to any person on account of or to be applied to the promotion of any political party, political club, or any other political purpose is repealed.

The provision prohibiting an employee of the department from being a member or an official of any political party committee or being a ward committeeman or committeewoman is repealed.

Currently, an employee of the department cannot solicit any person to vote for or against any candidate for public office or poll precincts or be connected with other similar political work on behalf of any political organization, party, or candidate. The bill prohibits these activities only while the employee is on duty or wearing the official department uniform.