

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Janet Schalansky, Secretary

Senate Ways and Means Committee
March 6, 2003

SB 244 - Concerning district coroners

Integrated Service Delivery
Dennis Priest, Program Administrator



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Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear on Senate Bill 244. My name is Dennis Priest, Program Administrator within the Integrated Service Delivery Division of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. This legislation helps clarify the responsibilities of County Coroners regarding deceased indigent persons. The Department does not oppose the changes but does wish to bring to the Committee's attention a cross reference to Article 7 of Chapter 39 of Kansas Statutes Annotated, noted in Section 1(d).

This cross reference is specific to Funeral Assistance benefits which until last year had been administered by SRS. Appropriations for this program were transferred to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment effective July 1, 2002. In addition, the Governor's budget for FY 2004 does not provide funding to SRS for this program.

As such, we would recommend the cross reference be removed or otherwise modified to reflect the transfer of funding that has occurred.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.