

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

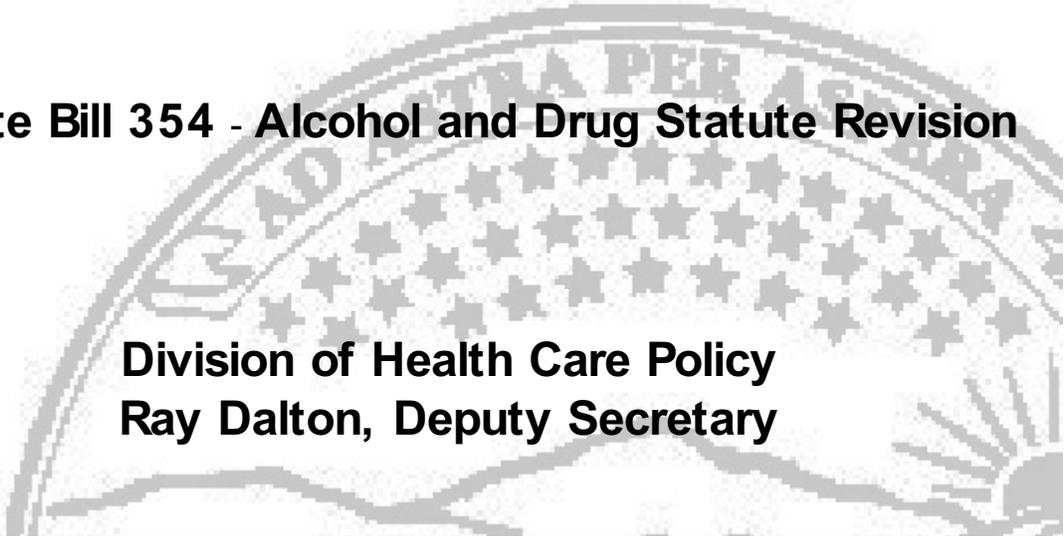
Don Jordan, Secretary

Senate Public Health And Welfare Committee

February 21, 2007

Senate Bill 354 - Alcohol and Drug Statute Revision

**Division of Health Care Policy
Ray Dalton, Deputy Secretary**



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Senate Bill 354 - Alcohol and Drug Statute Revision

Chairman Barnett and members of the Committee, I am Ray Dalton, Deputy Secretary of Health Care Policy with SRS. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today in support of SB 354.

This is a technical bill which will clean up and merge Chapter 65 Public Health, Article 40 (Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment, introduced in 1972) and Article 46 (Drug Abuse Treatment Facilities- introduced in 1976) to accurately reflect the current language utilized by the alcohol and drug field. This bill is not intended to have a policy or fiscal impact on SRS, consumers or stakeholders.

Before 1981, there were two sections within SRS, one that addressed alcohol and one that dealt with drug abuse. The primary reason for this separation was due to different federal funding streams. In 1981, the two sections within SRS were integrated. Funding streams also became integrated. Since that time, alcohol and drug abuse has been treated as one issue.

The primary changes contained in the bill are as follows:

- the separate drug and alcohol statutes were merged,
- language pertaining to alcoholics and intoxicated persons was replaced with persons with addiction to alcohol or other drugs,
- the reinstatement of definitions previously repealed (similar to SB 11).

We support the bill and ask that it be acted on favorably by the Committee.

I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.