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Open Government Proponents Gain Victory

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Kansas legislators have approved legislation opening some law enforcement records to the public, bringing the state in line with the practice across the country.

The House approved the measure 123-1 on Friday evening. The Senate passed it earlier Friday on a vote of 40-1.

Kansas is currently the only state that seals law enforcement documents supporting arrests and search warrants.

The Kansas Press Association and other proponents had long sought to change the law to provide more information to the public about law enforcement activities.

Prosecutors agreed to the bill after provisions were added to allow time for documents to be prepared and redacted to protect the identity of crime victims before the records are released.

The bill now goes to Gov. Sam Brownback, who supports the changes.

Associated Press