

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times On Feb. 19, Seward County commissioners voted to pass a resolution similar to one passed in many other counties across the country to protect the rights of gun owners in light of proposed federal legislation that would make a person register for weapons. After a few Kansas counties passed resolutions to that effect, Gov. Sam Brownback signed into law the state's Second Amendment Protection Act – SB-102.

The fight is still not over, however, as federal leaders, including U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, have called Kansas' law unconstitutional. Another step in the battle will be taken tonight when the commission considers a county resolution in support of the state's Second Amendment Protection Act. The proposed resolution uses language from the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment as well as Section Four of the Kansas Constitution, both of which declare a person has right to keep and bear arms. The resolution also talks about Brownback's signing of the new law, which affirms that "The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reserves to the people, individually, the right to keep and bear arms as that right was understood at the time Kansas was admitted to statehood in 1861."

That section of the resolution went on to state that "the guaranty of that right is a matter of contract between the state and people of Kansas and the United States as of the time that the compact with the United States was agreed upon and adopted by Kansas in 1859 and the United States in 1861."

The resolution also states that the Second Amendment at the time of Kansas' statehood was understood to not authorize the federal government to enact any laws, orders, rules or regulations regarding the right to keep and bear arms.

The next section declared any such laws as "null, void and unenforceable in the state of Kansas."

The resolution concluded by defining unenforceable federal acts under the Second Amendment Protection Act.

Commissioners will hear from local Second Amendment advocate Larry Phillips about the resolution prior to considering it for a vote at tonight's meeting, which is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the commission chambers in the Seward County Administration Building.