

Written Testimony on House Bill 2553
House Committee on Judiciary

Prepared by
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The Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Bill 2553. As written in its current form, House Bill 2553 increases the municipal docket fees by \$2.50. This extra \$2.50 will go toward the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training fund (KSCPOST).

The Kansas Highway Patrol supports the fee increase proposed by KSCPOST to assist in replacing the Central Registry database. The Central Registry database is maintained by KSCPOST and is relied upon by every law enforcement agency across the state to hire qualified officers, to adopt and enforce professional standards for certification of peace officers to promote public safety and to preserve public trust and confidence.

Now, more than ever, it is especially important for KSCPOST to have a reliable database to ensure public trust by suspending, revoking, or denying the certification of any officer. This includes officers who are not fit for duty or who fail to uphold the highest standards set by the public for certified law enforcement officers in the State of Kansas. The Central Registry database keeps all law enforcement officers that have had their certification suspended or revoked on file. This protects the public by ensuring that all agencies have access to the information that will prevent them from hiring a law enforcement officer whose certification has been suspended or revoked. The Central Registry database also ensures that every law enforcement officer has the required 40 hours of continuing education required by KSCPOST to maintain their certification.

The reliability and security of the Central Registry database is imperative as it houses roughly 28,000 agency and law enforcement officer certification and training records. The proposed docket fee will be paid by those convicted in Municipal Courts across the State of Kansas. Municipal agencies and officers represent 60% of Kansas' law enforcement presence. The Kansas Highway Patrol, as well as every other agency in the state, is reliant upon KSCPOST for the regulation and professionalism of its agency. The increased revenue generated by the \$2.50 increase would give KSCPOST the ability to even better serve the public by maintaining the integrity of law enforcement agencies.

In closing, the Kansas Highway Patrol understands the importance of HB 2553. We stand in support of the bill as it is designed to further the KSCPOST's ability to house training certification records of every law enforcement officer that serves the great State of Kansas.

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