

STATE OF KANSAS



KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL
122 S.W. 7TH
TOPEKA, KS 66603

PHONE: (785) 296-6800
FAX: (785) 296-5956
www.KansasHighwayPatrol.org

GOVERNOR JEFF COLYER, M.D.
COLONEL MARK A. BRUCE, SUPERINTENDENT

**Written Testimony on House Bill 2625
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice**

**Prepared by
Kansas Highway Patrol**

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The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding its support of House Bill 2625. This bill would amend the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Act (KLETA), K.S.A. 74-5601 *et seq.*, by designating the Central Registry and investigative records related to violations of KLETA as confidential. The statute would also be amended to provide a list of what can be disclosed from the registry and to whom.

As defined in K.S.A. 74-5611a, "The purpose of the registry is to be a resource for all agencies who appoint or elect police or law enforcement officers to use when reviewing applications of such officers. The registry shall be made available only to those agencies who appoint or elect police or law enforcement officers." It appears the legislative intent was to provide law enforcement agencies with the ability to review certification and investigative records, when considering an officer's application for employment. All of this to prevent the transient "problem employee" from freely moving from agency to agency. The KHP continues to conduct thorough background investigations on each new prospective Trooper/Officer, while utilizing the records that are retained by the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (KSCPOST) during this process.

The KHP is currently required to submit a Demographic form to CPOST for each newly hired Trooper/Officer, and a Notice of Termination or Status Change form, when an officer's employment has ended or has been terminated. We support CPOST's commitment to transparency and agree that Kansas citizens should have access to information about officer misconduct. This is accomplished by posting the name and agency of every law enforcement officer upon whom CPOST takes a certification action. The KHP recognizes the importance of maintaining confidentiality with certain records, while also knowing that certain records are subject to disclosure through the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA).

The KHP supports HB 2625, as there are many concerns with allowing the registry to be subject to potential release pursuant to KORA.

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