

**Testimony on HB 2099 on Affiliating Certain KDWPT Employees With KPF
To
The House Committee on Financial Institutions
By Brad Loveless
Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism**

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HB 2099 seeks to affiliate certain Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism law enforcement personnel with the Kansas police and fireman's retirement system. **The Department requested introduction of the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

HB 2099 would allow the Department to transition full-time employees within the law enforcement division, parks division, and public lands division into KPF from KPERS. The provisions of the bill would make the effective date of the bill July 1, 2019, and the transition to KPF would occur on July 1, 2020. This change is necessary for the long-term health of the agency and will aid in recruitment and retention of those valuable public safety positions.

As the Committee is aware, KPF has slightly different retirement benefits that encourage transition out of law enforcement at an earlier age, which also protects the individual officer from being involved in physical confrontations at a later age, and we feel it is appropriate to add our officers into this system. KDWPT law enforcement officers have the same statewide jurisdiction law enforcement certification as the Kansas Highway Patrol officers or the Kansas Bureau of Investigations agents, entities that are already in KPF, and face the same daily dangers as any other statewide law enforcement agency officers.

Additionally, the KDWPT is entirely fee funded and this transition will have no negative impact on State General Funds.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify and requests favorable consideration of the bill.