

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Petersen at 8:30 am on Tuesday, February 09, 2016, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department
Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department
Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Carolyn Long, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Senator Terry Bruce
Ed Peavey, Executive Director, Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center
Ed Klumpp, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association, and Kansas Peace Officers Association
Mike Keller, Chief, Andover Police Department
Brad Nelson, Chief, Salina Police Department
Linda Coon, Kansas County Treasurers Association
Thomas Franzen, Johnson County Treasurer and Finance Director

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Petersen opened the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes from January 27, 2016 and February 2, 2016. Moved by Senator Pettey, seconded by Senator Wolf to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Hearing on:

Hearing on: SB 335--Increasing passenger vehicle registration fee and dedicating a portion of such fee to the law enforcement training center.

Chairman Petersen opened the hearing on **SB 335** and welcomed Senator Bruce to the Committee. Senator Bruce stated that when the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC), which is a unit of the University of Kansas Continuing Education, appeared before the Legislature in 2006, projections showed they would need to return in 2016 to update their funding source. Since its inception in 1968, KLETC has provided high-quality training for every law enforcement agency in the state, totaling over 400 officers annually over the past few years. Currently KLETC's main source of funding is docket fees, which are declining, and this bill would address their anticipated needs for updating and

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diversifying their funding source with an annual revenue increase of \$3.18 million ([Attachment 1](#)).

The Chairman introduced Ed Peavey, Executive Director, Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center ([Attachment 2](#)). Mr. Peavey told the Committee that money for everything KLETC does--the training programs, contractual services, staff salaries and benefits, student supplies, maintenance of all campus buildings and properties, technology, training equipment and capital improvements-- comes from the Law Enforcement Training Fund. The KLETC Campus, located 12 miles SE of Hutchinson, near Yoder, consists of:

- A 173-acre campus;
- 15 buildings;
- 15 technology-equipped classrooms;
- 2 multi-story residence halls that provide 117 two-person dorm rooms;
- A firearms range;
- A 1.78 mile emergency vehicle driver training course and classroom building;
- An Emergency Vehicle Operations Driver Training Program (EVOC) skid pad;
- A residential crime scene house;
- A tactical shooting building; and
- An 800-seat multi-purpose training facility.

KLETC employs 47 full-time staff; 17 of which are full-time instructors and three are maintenance personnel. The Center outsources cafeteria services, security and laundry. During the basic training course, more than 120 student officers live in dormitories on the campus for a total of 14 weeks. In addition, all graduated officers are required to obtain 40 hours of annual continuing education to maintain their license and during that time they reside on the KLETC campus. As Director, Mr. Peavey oversees all KLETC programs, staff, students, campus facilities, and budget and conducts strategic planning. He also authorizes, licenses and monitors law enforcement basic training programs at eight satellite police academies operated by local agencies and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

The Mission of the KLETC is "the promotion and development of improved law enforcement personnel and procedures throughout the state, and the training center shall offer to qualified applicants such programs and courses of instruction designed to fulfill this end."

KLETC conducts basic training programs for full-time and part-time law enforcement officers and for experienced officers coming from out of state to jobs in Kansas. They also offer the "Challenge" examination process for Kansas officers who have been out of law enforcement for over five years and whose law enforcement certification has lapsed, allowing them to by-pass the full training program by taking a written examination. Retired officers can participate in a firearm qualification program which would permit them to carry a firearm at all times. Every four years, mandatory new sheriffs orientation school is offered with a typical attendance of 35-40. Kansas has 437 law enforcement agencies with a total of 8,000+ officers, all of which are served by the Center. During skills training, an officer is told how to do something, shown, and then allowed to do it. Basic training courses include hands-on tactical

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and scenario-based training to prepare officers for real world situations.

KLETC owns and maintains a fleet of 15 police vehicles that are used for emergency vehicle driver training. Maintaining the 1.78 mile driving course with the various driving environments is always ongoing. The fact that nearly half of all law enforcement officers killed annually die as a result of vehicle-related incidents, makes this training invaluable.

Blue Courage is a Department of Justice sponsored, national training initiative, that is changing the culture of law enforcement. Blue Courage gives law enforcement officers the tools to be effective in the community. 201 police chiefs, sheriffs and command staff attended the recent training program.

The KLETC has been recognized nationally for Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) training regarding racial profiling and works closely with Kansas African-American organizations.

In FY 2015, 357 new officers were trained with seven out of every 10 trained at KLETC. Enrollment in continuing education courses totaled 5,991 while on-line education courses had 4,673 enrollments.

The Center has been funded by docket fees since 1982 and historically this has been a stable source. The Center has been to the Legislature to request funding increases only five times. Since FY 2009, docket fees have declined from \$6,001,502 to a projected number of \$4,400,000 in FY 2016. Operation expenses for FY 2016 are projected at \$5.1 million. In order to continue to operate with revenues declining by more than 20%, KLETC uses more than 300 volunteers annually to extend staff resources, is delaying employment hirings, is actively seeking grant partnerships, and deferring maintenance and equipment replacement. Many areas of the KLETC budget are market driven such as utilities, data and telecommunications, contracted services, and employee fringe benefits. In the next five years, KLETC faces \$4.2 million in major capital maintenance expenses beyond normal, everyday maintenance. In the next 10 years, that number increases to \$12.8 million. Those major capital expenses include roof and boiler replacements, HVAC replacements, and the infrastructure of 15 campus buildings.

In closing, Mr. Peavey said that given the critical training and education challenges facing KLETC, it cannot continue to meet its legislative mandate in today's law enforcement environment with revenue stream levels more than 20% below 2006 funding levels.

Chairman Petersen thanked Mr. Peavey for his presentation and welcomed Ed Klumpp, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association, and Kansas Peace Officers Association. Mr. Klumpp, speaking in favor of **SB 335**, told the Committee that KLETC provided integrity, knowledge and skill and that Kansas deserved well-trained officers ([Attachment 3](#)).

Michael Keller, Chief of Police, City of Andover, added his support by stating that KLETC provides the quality and consistent law enforcement training opportunities throughout Kansas ([Attachment 4](#)).

Also in favor of the bill, Brad Nelson, Chief of Police, City of Salina, said he attended a 40-hour

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Reciprocity Course in 2014 and was impressed with the professionalism of the entire staff at KLETC ([Attachment 5](#)). He also stated it is critical to have funding for it to continue.

Written testimony in favor of **SB 335** was presented by Sheriff Herman T. Jones, Shawnee County ([Attachment 6](#)), Brad Schoen, Director, Riley County Police Department ([Attachment 7](#)), Kansas Highway Patrol ([Attachment 8](#)), and Sheriff Don Ash, Wyandotte County ([Attachment 9](#)).

Linda D. Coon, President, Kansas County Treasurer's Association and Wabaunsee County Treasurer, presented neutral testimony on **SB 335**. She stated that, while acknowledging the importance of providing training and certification to local law enforcement agencies, she felt the county treasurers, due to their current budgets, have seen increased duties in the county motor vehicle offices resulting in the need to hire additional personnel. She suggested additional compensation to the treasurer's offices for collecting these fees ([Attachment 10](#)). Also presenting written testimony was Thomas Franzen, Johnson County Treasurer and Finance Director. He said Kansas county treasurers vehicle operations are underfunded and would like consideration for increasing registration fees for county treasurers' operations while considering this bill ([Attachment 11](#)).

Following questions from the Committee, the Chair closed the hearing on **SB 335**.

Possible action on bills previously heard

No action was taken on any bills

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2016.