



KANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

Written Testimony to the Senate Ways & Means Committee Regarding the Substantial Negative Financial Impact of SB403

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Senator Masterson and Committee Members:

SB403 in section 6(b) (page 12, lines 13-16) would prohibit the assessment of costs for the administration of justice in municipal court cases where a person “makes an appearance, waiver, plea and payment ...” If this bill is passed as it currently reads, **KLETC could lose as much as \$2.5M dollars in annual funding. Based upon FY2015 municipal court docket fee funding, this \$2.5M figure represents over 50% of KLETC annual operating funds.**

KLETC’s annual operating budget has been funded with **municipal court docket fees** since 1992. KLETC receives \$11.50 from docket fees charged in criminal and traffic-related cases in municipal courts across Kansas. In FY15 (the latest complete data available), 63% of officers trained in basic law enforcement training programs at KLETC were police officers employed by municipal police agencies. Established by KSA 74-5619, and enabled by KSA 12-4117(a), 20-362, 20-362(e), funding for the training center is currently provided from the law enforcement training center fund.

KLETC is currently operating on funding levels 20% lower than the funding levels established by the 2006 Legislature, while the demand for training and annual operating costs continue to increase. KLETC staff has compensated by reducing discretionary expenditures, delaying the hiring of vacant positions, and delaying infrastructure maintenance and equipment purchases.

As a result of declining court docket fee funding, the Senate recently passed favorably from its chamber Sub. for SB335 which increases vehicle registration fees by \$1.25 on all vehicles. The bill is now awaiting a House Committee hearing. The funding derived from the \$1.25 registration fee is projected to provide KLETC \$3.3M annually to help supplement declining court docket fees. **Now, with the possible elimination of \$2.5M dollars in municipal court docket fees, even the passage of Sub. for SB335 would not provide the sufficient critical funding needed to sustain KLETC training programs and campus operations.**

We ask Senate Ways and Means committee members to please take into consideration the devastating impact that SB403, if passed, will have on KLETC training programs and campus operations.

Background: Established by the Legislature in 1968, KLETC serves 430 Kansas law enforcement agencies providing law enforcement basic training and continuing education programs to officers from all of Kansas’ 105 counties, and licenses, oversees and monitors the basic training at eight (8) authorized and certified academy programs operated by local law enforcement agencies and the Kansas Highway Patrol.