



Kansas State Lodge

Fraternal Order of Police

March 11, 2016

The Honorable Ron Ryckman, Chairperson
House Committee on Appropriations

RE: HB 2725; Testimony of Peter J. Fogarty, President FOP State Lodge

Dear Chairperson Ryckman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2725. My name is Peter Fogarty, and I am the President of the Kansas State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police. I worked as a police officer for 40 years in Kansas City, Kansas and I just recently retired in December of 2015. On behalf of all 3,200 members of FOP Lodges throughout the State of Kansas, I am writing to express our opposition to this bill.

HB 2725 seeks to change the way final compensation is calculated because it does not allow all sick and vacation leave for employees hired before 1993 to count towards that final average compensation.

HB 2725 excludes all members of the KP&F retirement plan and we thank you for that exclusion. However, approximately 1/3 of all law enforcement officers in Kansas are under KPERS and not KP&F. We believe all law enforcement officers, including those under KPERS should be exempt from the proposal contained in HB 2725, which changes the way final compensation is calculated. This proposed change would negatively impact many law enforcement officers who have worked 20 plus years. Additionally, the proposed legislation would impact non-sworn law enforcement employees such as radio communication dispatchers and support staff. If the change is adopted, I believe it will accelerate retirements because many employees will retire sooner than planned so if any limitations on their final salary calculation occurs it will not affect their retirement benefits. Many law enforcement agencies already experience difficulty in attracting and retaining personnel. If the provisions of HB 2725 were enacted, this would add to staffing challenges.

For all these reasons, I urge you to vote against the passage of HB 2325. Thank you for reviewing my testimony.