



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson
Director

Derek Schmidt
Attorney General

Testimony in Support of HB 2550
Before the House Standing Committee on Judiciary
Kirk D. Thompson, Director
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
February 4, 2016

Chairman Barker and Committee Members:

My name is Kirk Thompson and I serve as the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Per K.S.A. 74-5606, I also serve as a statutory member of the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (KSCPOST). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2550.

HB 2550 seeks to ensure that the central registry database maintained by KSCPOST is exempt from disclosure under the Kansas open records act. Additionally, it creates a new section enumerating the circumstances under which complaints against officers may be disclosed by KSCPOST.

The mission of KSCPOST is to ensure the citizens of Kansas are provided with qualified, trained, ethical, competent, and professional peace officers. It is dedicated to adopting and enforcing professional standards for certification of peace officers in order to preserve the public's trust and confidence in the law enforcement officers who have taken an oath to serve and protect our citizens.

Pursuant to this mission, KSCPOST maintains the hiring, training, and termination records of approximately 7,500 Kansas law enforcement officers and is tasked with conducting investigations to carry out the provisions of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Act. Upon an officer's termination from an agency, and in accordance with K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 74-5611a(d), the agency head files a report detailing the circumstances of an officer's involuntary termination with KSCPOST. KSCPOST maintains these records in their central registry database to assist law enforcement agencies across the state in making informed decisions about the peace officers they hire.

The intent of the amendments in HB 2550 are not to broadly exempt these records from disclosure but to ensure that requests made pursuant to the Kansas open records act are directed to the agency of record rather than to KSCPOST.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

###