



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Testimony in Support of HB 2553
Before the House Standing Committee on Judiciary
Kirk D. Thompson, Director
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
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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 2553, which proposes an increase to municipal court docket fees in order to provide critical funding for KSCPOST operations.

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 and training 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. KSCPOST is critical to the regulation and professionalism of Kansas law enforcement. Given the current environment within our country there has never been a more important time to support the continued professionalism of our peace officers.

The funding increase proposed by HB 2553 would enable KSCPOST to replace the central registry database which currently contains more than 28,000 law enforcement agency and officer records and is used by law enforcement agencies across the state to ensure they hire qualified and ethical peace officers. It is important to note that a recent audit by Legislative Post-Audit indicated replacement of the central registry was necessary for security reasons. With the growing prevalence of cyber intrusions, it is critically important to the safety of Kansas peace officers that their personal information be protected and securely maintained in the registry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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