

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Richard Proehl at 1:30 pm on Thursday, January 28, 2016, 582-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sloan – Excused
Representative Joe Seiwert – Excused
Representative Mario Goico – Excused

Committee staff present:

Scott Wells, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department
Aaron Klaassen, Legislative Research Department
Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Betty Boaz, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Col. Mark Bruce, Superintendent, Kansas Highway Patrol
Ed Klumpp, representing Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police
Jeff Herrig, Jefferson County Sheriff, representing Kansas Sheriffs Association
Trooper Bryan Clark, representing the Kansas State Troopers Association
Herman Jones, Shawnee County Sheriff, representing the Kansas Peace Officers Association

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Bill introductions

There were no bill introductions.

Hearing on: HB2503 — Creating the Kansas highway patrol staffing and training fund; vehicle registration fees.

Chairman Proehl asked staff to brief the Committee on **HB2503**. After questions were answered the Chairman welcomed Col. Mark Bruce, Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol to the Committee. Col. Bruce discussed the "Pieces of the Trooper Shortage Puzzle" - Competitive Compensation Plan, Recruiting and Deferred Retirement Option Plan. He also discussed challenges the Patrol faces. According to Col. Bruce the passage of **HB2503** would allow the KHP to be able to expand the workforce by 75 Troopers by the end of FY2018 without requesting supplemental funding from the Legislature and to continue funding annual Recruit classes of 15 in subsequent years. He stood for questions. ([Attachment 1](#)) After all questions were answered by either Col. Bruce or his staff, the Chairman thanked him for the information provided.

Chairman Proehl recognized Ed Klumpp, representing the Kansas Ass'n. of Chiefs of Police.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Transportation at 1:30 pm on Thursday, January 28, 2016 in Room 582-N of the Capitol.

[\(Attachment 2\)](#) According to Mr. Klumpp the Kansas Highway Patrol provides vital services to assist the local public safety efforts and over the past several years the ability of the Patrol to provide those services to the local jurisdictions has substantially diminished due to reductions in staffing. He concluded by saying it was time this essential public safety service of state government be restored.

The Chairman recognized Sheriff Jeff Herrig, representing the KS Sheriffs Ass'n. [\(Attachment 3\)](#) He said often assistance from the KHP is heavily relied upon by rural Sheriffs. He said Troopers within counties provide backup for all law enforcement along with working traffic within counties when Deputies are providing other services.

The next proponent was Bryan Clark representing the KS State Troopers Ass'n. [\(Attachment 4\)](#) According to Trooper Clark the need for a stable and consistent fund to aid the KHP in funding its pay progression plan is absolutely essential given the many recruitment challenges already existing. He said **HB2503** is a critical component in the success and continuation of plans previously set in place by Legislature.

The last proponent was Sheriff Herman Jones representing the KS Peace Officers Ass'n. [\(Attachment 5\)](#) He said he previously served as a Trooper and witnessed the challenges of personnel shortages as he patrolled the streets and highways where his primary duties entailed traffic safety yet on many instances was called upon to assist the local law enforcement agencies with traffic and criminal investigations. He said now as Sheriff he has called upon the Highway Patrol to assist with enforcement and has also called upon the Highway Patrol Air Unit to help with the apprehension of criminal subjects.

There were no other proponents so the Chairman called for any opponents to **HB2503**. There were none present. The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to Written Testimony from Ryan Flickner, Kansas Farm Bureau in opposition to **HB2503** [\(Attachment 6\)](#).

There were no other Proponents or Opponents. The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB2503**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 2, 2016. We will be hearing **HB2473**.

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned.