



**Kansas Association of
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**Testimony to the House Transportation Committee
In Opposition to HB2255
February 17, 2015**

Chairman Proehl and Committee Members,

HB2255 will prohibit a program that has allowed many local governments an affordable method to achieve emergency communications interoperability. This program has allowed local governments to join the statewide radio system through a lease program funded by bonds issued through KDOT. The lease payments then pay for the bonds.

This program has been an example of how the state and local governments can work together to enhance public safety in Kansas. Now the state wants to end that cooperative effort. We need to explore how the greatly needed radio operability will be affected by such a move and what alternatives are available to continue this enhancement to the emergency radio coverage in Kansas.

We are also at a loss as to why this bill is even needed. As can be seen on page 1, line 29 the secretary "may" enter into these agreements. Nothing in the bill mandates it to be done so there really isn't any reason for the proposed prohibition.

If the state is really interested in enhancing the emergency radio system in Kansas, we suggest either to kill this bill which would allow the continuation of the lease purchase program in the future provided the secretary believed it was in the best interest of Kansas; or amend the bill to allow and encourage it to continue with some legislative guidance on the total bonding authority for the project.

Ed Klumpp
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Sheriff Sandy Horton, Ret., Executive Director

Position Statement of the Kansas Sheriff's Association concerning the Statewide Interoperable Communications System (KSICS).

January 28, 2015

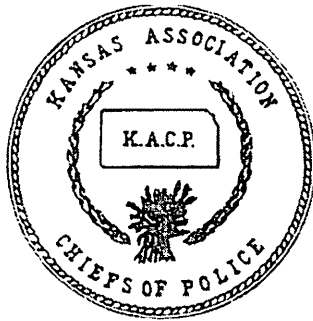
On January 28th, 2015 at the general board meeting of the Kansas Sheriff's Association an ongoing discussion was held concerning KSICS. The position of this association and its members are as follows.

1. The Kansas Statewide Interoperable Communications System is an exceptionally valuable asset to public safety in Kansas. It provides many local agencies and jurisdictions with dedicated public safety radio connectivity and affords the state as a whole an interoperable solution that is nationally recognized.
2. The system has been completed over the years through multiple funding streams and consists of a wide variety of equipment, leases, agreements and administration and maintenance processes. Although the system has been highly successful operationally, there is no clear picture of the system from a holistic point of view. The Kansas Sheriff's Association believes that long term funding (20 years) is crucial to the success of this project.
3. User Agreements between KDOT and Local Agencies exist in all 105 Counties in the State. Further every Sheriff's Office has at least 1 radio capable of communicating on KSICS and almost 60% of those Sheriff's use it as their mission critical communication system. With that in mind the Association believes that it as well as other public safety associations should continue to participate in the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee and be included in discussions that impact the life and sustainability of KSICS.
4. Finally, the Association encourages the State of Kansas to consider every deliverable method of emergency communications and endeavor to find a solution that streamlines and makes more efficient the way that they are managed.

Submitted to the Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee and to others as needed.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Sandy Horton
Executive Director
Kansas Sheriffs Association



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Position Statement of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police concerning the Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems (KSICS).

On January 28th, 2015, the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP) board met and discussed the Kansas Statewide Interoperable Communications System (KSICS).

The KACP Board affirms that KSICS is a critical asset to public safety in Kansas by providing many state, county and city agencies with radio connectivity and effectively addresses issues with interoperability.

We understand that this system consists of a wide variety of funding mechanisms. In addition to State funding, many county and city governments have invested large sums of money to get KSICS to the highly successful operational system it is today.

Currently, there are user agreements in place between KDOT and local agencies in all 105 Kansas Counties. Those partnerships include Sheriff's Offices, Municipal Police Departments, University Police Departments and other public safety agencies. KACP along with the Kansas Sheriffs' Association and other public safety groups should continue to have a voice in the discussion and decisions that impact the life and sustainability of KSICS. This can be accomplished by the continued utilization of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee. We agree that KSICS should be maintained by a single entity, but managed by representation of all users.

KACP agrees that the long term future of the system needs to be discussed, but the outcome of those discussions should result in a decision which provides for the sustainment of the KSICS in a manner that benefits all public safety across the entire state.

Submitted on behalf of KACP to the Kansas Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee. Available to other vested entities as needed.

Ed Howell

President of KACP