

MINUTES OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON KPERS

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff King at 3:40pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – Excused

Committee staff present:

Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department

Suzanne Nelson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Gordon Self, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Mark Dapp, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Major Mark Bruce, Interim Superintendent, Kansas Highway Patrol;

Jerry Marlatt, Retired Captain, Topeka Fire Department, on behalf of the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters;

Steve Kearney, Executive Vice President, Kansas State Troopers Association;

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB284 — Enacting the Kansas deferred retirement option program act.

Chair King opened the hearing on **SB284** and asked Daniel Yoza to explain the provisions of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#))

Proponents with oral testimony were as follows:

Major Mark Bruce with the Kansas Highway Patrol testified in support of the bill. He related that the number of troopers has significantly dropped to 408 this year with another 53 troopers eligible for retirement between now and the end of the year. He provided charts showing low level staffing by county and a summary of the total of troopers on staff from 2005 to 2014. He believes the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) established in **SB284** provides a voluntarily-elected incentive for employees to stay on the job while minimizing the cost to the state. ([Attachment 2](#))

Jerry Marlatt, on behalf of the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters, also supported the bill. He related that the proposed program is a way to reward the more skilled and senior employees and keep that pool of knowledge and experience responding and serving our communities across the state. ([Attachment 3](#))

Steve Kearney, on behalf of the Kansas State Troopers Association, also supported favorable passage of **SB284**. He stated that the bill was designed to be revenue neutral to the state of Kansas. It comes at a time when manpower is low and recruiting qualified candidates has been difficult. Mr. Kearney noted that **SB284** applies only to state employee members of Kansas Police and Fire (KP&F) retirement

CONTINUATION SHEET

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administered by KPERS. However, with this bill, municipalities may elect to participate in KP&F and elect to participate in a similar DROP at their own expense. ([Attachment 4](#))

Ed Klumpp submitted written only proponent testimony on behalf of the Associations of Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, and Kansas Peace Officers. ([Attachment 5](#))

Discussion followed. Alan Conroy distributed and presented an informational summary of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) which contained background information, election examples with projected values, cost considerations, and estimated administrative costs. Mr. Conroy noted that the majority of the administrative costs are for IT to maintain the system. ([Attachment 6](#)) Mr. Conroy answered questions from Chair King, Senator Holmes and Senator Denning.

Seeing no one else who had questions or wanted to testify, the Chair closed the hearing on **SB284**. Chair King announced that **SB284** would be worked at the next meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 3:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.