



**Testimony on Senate Bill 284
Senate Select Committee on KPERS**

**Presented by
Major Mark Bruce, Interim Superintendent
Kansas Highway Patrol**

March 16, 2015

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Major Mark Bruce, Governor Brownback's appointee to serve as Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today in support of Senate Bill 284.

As many of you know, the KHP is at a critical juncture as it relates to the number of troopers we have on the road. In 2006, we had 501 troopers and as I stand before you today, that number has dropped to 408. Further exacerbating this situation is the fact that we have 53 troopers eligible for retirement between now and the end of the year. As we work to attract quality, new hires, we have to find a way to slow the exodus of senior troopers to retirement.

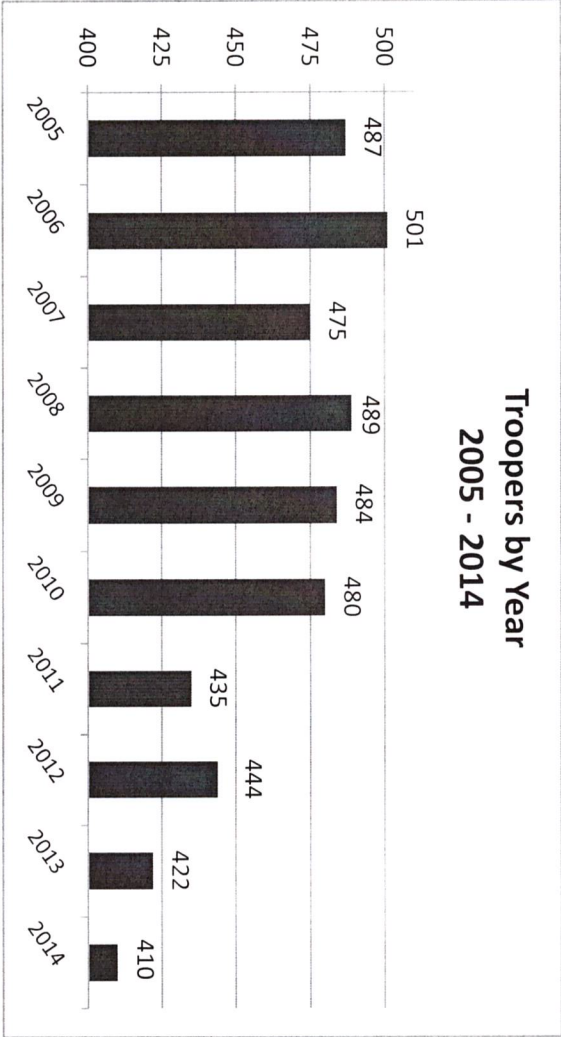
The KHP believes that the provisions of Senate Bill 284 will tremendously reduce the number of troopers that retire at the earliest opportunity by enticing them to remain in service to the state for 3-5 years longer. Keeping troopers employed longer will assist us in hiring new applicants at a rate exceeding the number of retirements. Although it will take a number of years, this should allow us to reduce the current manpower shortage.

The KHP looked at a number of Deferred Retirement Option Programs in place around the country. Many of those were very lucrative for the employee and came at a significant expense to the state. The DROP included in Senate Bill 284, provides an incentive for employees to stay on the job and minimizes the cost to the state. Clearly, a win, win.

I cannot stress enough the significance this bill has as it relates to improving the staffing shortages currently faced by the Patrol. I highly encourage your support of this bill and am happy to stand for any questions you may have.

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Year	Troopers
2005	487
2006	501
2007	475
2008	489
2009	484
2010	480
2011	435
2012	444
2013	422
2014	410



[illegible]

1 Assigned