

Gary Steed, Executive Director

Commission on Peace Officers' Standards
& Training
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Sam Brownback, Governor

Testimony to Senate Ways and Means
In Opposition to SB 403

Chairman Masterson and members of the Committee

The 2006 Legislature separated the educational function of law enforcement at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center from the licensing function. They approved the creation of the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (KSA 74-5601 et seq.). Funding for KS-CPOST was established solely through municipal docket fees.

KS-CPOST independently performs misconduct investigations of all state and local Kansas law enforcement officers. An intent of the independent funding of the state agency was to eliminate potential political influence.

SB 409 provides that:

(b) A person shall not be assessed costs for the administration of justice described in subsection (a) if such person makes an appearance, waiver, plea and payment in accordance with K.S.A. 12-4305(c), and amendments thereto.

Because most fines are uncontested, this provision would eliminate almost all funding for KS-CPOST.

KS-CPOST also administers the Local Law Enforcement Training Reimbursement fund (74-5620). This fund requires that \$1.00 from each Municipal Court case be distributed to municipalities who provide basic or part-time training of their officers through the eight satellite academies certified by KLETC. The above section of SB 409 would eliminate the majority of this reimbursement.

KS-CPOST is dependent on municipal docket fees for all operations. This bill would be devastating to KS-CPOST and the professionalism of Kansas law enforcement officers. This bill should not be passed without a source of alternative funding for KS-CPOST.