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Written Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2506  
House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

Prepared by  
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The Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2506. We respectfully request the Committee consider our agency's concerns. This bill would amend K.S.A. 48-3406 to allow an individual who has established or intends to establish residence in this state to lawfully practice their certified occupations even if their certifications were achieved in a different state with different certification requirements. While we understand the spirit of the bill, we would ask you to consider an exemption for law enforcement certifications.

The standards for law enforcement certification are intricate and vary from state to state. In Kansas, an individual cannot apply for law enforcement certification. The application for law enforcement certification must come from a Kansas law enforcement agency. This helps to ensure that only quality individuals who have been vetted by a comprehensive background investigation are sponsored through the certification process. It is our belief that this process works to ensure a better quality of applicant, and in turn better serves the State of Kansas.

Law enforcement background investigations are intended to be very thorough. This extensive process could be put under strain due to the ten business day requirements described in HB-2506. It would be possible for an officer who has misconduct issues in another state to become certified in the State of Kansas before their misconduct can be discovered.

Additionally, the Kansas law enforcement certification process begins with minimum qualifications as directed by K.S.A. 74-5605. The applicant must be a citizen of the United States, be at least twenty-one years of age, and complete psychological testing to ensure that the applicant is able to perform essential law enforcement functions with reasonable skill, safety, and judgment. HB-2506 would require KSCPOST to issue law enforcement certifications to those who do not meet the minimum statutory requirements.

It is for these reasons that the Kansas Highway Patrol opposes HB-2506 in its current form and would ask that law enforcement officers be added to the list of exempted professions found on page five.

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