

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 267 RELATING TO TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND VIOLATIONS  
OF THE SECURED LOADS STATUTE AS A TRAFFIC INFRACTION**

**February 10, 2020**

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Joel Skelley, Director of Policy for The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 267 relating to traffic regulations and violations of the secured loads statute as a traffic infraction.

Currently Kansas law (K.S.A. 8-1906) requires any load be properly secured. The existing law also imposes a fine in conjunction with the conviction of a misdemeanor for violation of this law. Examples of what items are covered under this law may include, but are not limited to, furniture one might purchase and transport home, trash hauled to the landfills from our homes, or construction equipment being transported from one worksite to another.

Each of these loads when not properly secured can and do litter our highways, cause damage to the highways and/or to other vehicles, and in some instances, even result in death. As such, it was determined that there be a law and penalty for not properly securing loads. If a load is not properly secured, a fine can be assessed not exceeding \$500 as set forth in K.S.A. 8-1901. KDOT is supportive of the existing laws that impose a fine to deter people from not securing their loads as they travel.

This bill would change the current law to make violation of not properly securing a load to a traffic infraction. However, it does not list or amend the current uniform schedule of fines to include a fine for such a violation. This could be resolved by amending K.S.A 8-2118(c) to include a fine for the violation of K.S.A. 8-1906. K.S.A. 8-1901 may also need to be amended to except K.S.A. 8-1906 out of 8-1901 if it were to be listed in the uniform schedule of fines in K.S.A. 8-2118(c).

Safety is a top priority at KDOT. This issue is best addressed through strict laws and penalties and the strong enforcement of those. With that in mind we would request if the bill is worked an amendment to the bill be made to include a fine for the violation of K.S.A. 8-1906.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 267. I am willing to stand for questions at the appropriate time.