

**Written Testimony on Senate Bill 157
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**Prepared by
Kansas Highway Patrol**

February 15, 2017

The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written, informational testimony as it relates to Senate Bill 157. This bill would require the Superintendent of the KHP to seek a Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws.

The following information is provided for your consideration as you deliberate on the merits of the bill:

- The KHP was not consulted with during drafting of the bill and we are unclear as to the level of staffing envisioned to constitute, "...certain Kansas highway patrol officers..." as referenced on line 11.
- The referenced Memorandum of Agreement can only be entered into and authorized by the United States Attorney General and not the United States Department of Homeland Security.
- Performance of the duties outlined in the bill will be done so at the expense of the state.
 - Additionally, every officer performing such duties will be required to attend 4 weeks of training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, resulting in additional costs.
- Any KHP officer performing duties outlined in the bill will do so outside the control of the Agency and under the direction and supervision of the United States Attorney General.
- Currently, no local or state police agency performs the duties as set forth in the bill.
 - DHS has Memorandums of Agreement with 37 agencies as allowed pursuant to 8 U.S.C. Section 1357(g). They are all jails.
- The KHP has been and continues to be understaffed.
 - The agency is short nearly 70 troopers.
- Staffing shortages inhibit the KHP's ability to meet its statutory mission.
 - In 2016, traffic fatalities increased by 22% from 2015.
- Civil unrest and attacks against law enforcement have become the national trend.
- A re-direction of KHP resources is likely to result in a reduction of the Agency's ability to perform its life and public safety, statutory mission.

The KHP believes it is important for you to understand our concerns as it relates to the provisions of Senate Bill 157. We will defer to the wisdom of the committee to determine the best use of the state's Highway Patrol resources.

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