

**Testimony on SB 225 on Affiliating Certain KDWPT Employees With KPF
To
The House Committee on Financial Institutions
By Brad Loveless
Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism**

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SB 225 seeks to affiliate Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) law enforcement personnel with the Kansas Police and Fireman's Retirement System (KPF). **KDWPT requested introduction of the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

SB 225 would allow full-time law enforcement certified employees within KDWPT's Law Enforcement, Parks, and Public Lands divisions to transition into KPF from the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS). The provisions of the bill would make the effective date of the bill July 1, 2021. This change is necessary for the long-term health of the agency and will aid in recruitment and retention of these valuable public safety positions.

As the Committee is aware, KPF has slightly different retirement benefits that encourage transition out of law enforcement at an earlier age, protecting individual officers from being involved in physical confrontations at a later age, and we feel it is appropriate to add our officers into this system. KDWPT law enforcement officers have the same statewide jurisdiction law enforcement certification as Kansas Highway Patrol officers and Kansas Bureau of Investigations agents, entities that are already in KPF. KDWPT law enforcement officers routinely assist and work closely with other state law enforcement agencies and face the same daily dangers.

Additionally, the KDWPT is entirely fee funded and this transition will have no negative impact on State General Funds.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify and requests favorable consideration of the bill.