

Approved: March 25, 2011

Date

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION/SAFETY BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Virgil Peck, Jr. at 3:30 on February 16, 2011, in Room 142-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Aaron Klaassen, Fiscal Analyst
Daniel Yoza, Assistant Revisor
Jeannie Dillon, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Major Mark Bruce, Kansas Highway Patrol

Others attending : See attached list.

Chairman Peck opened the hearing on **HB 2173 - Kansas Highway Patrol; fees for certain services.**

Aaron Klaassen gave an overview on **HB 2173.**

Major Mark Bruce, Kansas Highway Patrol, presented testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 1). The bill allows the Superintendent to recover the costs incurred by the Patrol in its provision of traffic safety related services at for-profit events organized by non-governmental entities.

There was no testimony submitted from opponents.

Kim Torrey, Fiscal Manager, and Major Mark Goodloe, Kansas Highway Patrol, responded to questions asked by the committee.

Chairman Peck closed the hearing on **HB 2173.**

The Chair asked the committee for discussion and deliberations on the Kansas Highway Patrol Budget. After committee discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

The next meeting will be February 17, 2011, at 3:30 pm.

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**Testimony on House Bill 2173
House Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committee**

**Presented by
Major Mark Bruce
Kansas Highway Patrol**

February 16, 2011

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Major Mark Bruce and I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) regarding House Bill 2173. The purpose of this bill is simple and necessary. It allows the Superintendent to recover the costs incurred by the Patrol in its provision of traffic safety related services at for-profit events organized by non-governmental entities.

Historically, the Patrol has been able to absorb the costs of special events, such as the races at the Kansas Speedway and the Country Stampede into its budget. However, as a result of the effect of the nation's economic crisis on Kansas, state agencies have endured significant cuts to their budgets in recent years. Since SFY 09, the KHP's SGF budget has been reduced by 17.4% which exceeds \$6.5 million. Our recommended SGF budget for SFY 2012 was reduced by more than \$1.6 million. The majority of our troopers' salaries and benefits are paid from this fund and the Patrol's ability to keep troopers on the road is in jeopardy if the fiscal relief afforded by HB 2173 does not come to fruition.

As a couple of examples of how this bill would benefit the Patrol, we, on average, spend about \$77,812 per race at the Kansas Speedway and \$37,325 in support of the Country Stampede. HB 2173 would allow us to recover at least \$192,949 each year that is spent providing services to those who make a tremendous profit at our expense.

As you know, the provisions of this bill allow the Superintendent to fix, charge and collect fees as previously mentioned. We do believe that language compelling payment from those receiving our services would strengthen the intent of this legislation.

Again, I appreciate your time today and trust that you will favorably consider this bill for passage. Its intent is commonsensical and necessary in the fiscal climate facing the state as a whole and the Kansas Highway Patrol in particular.

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Transportation/Public Safety
Budget Committee
Date: 2-16-2011

Attachment 1