

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 473
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice**

Prepared by
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The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 473, and we respectfully request the Committee consider our agency's concurrence.

Senate Bill 473 expands the definition of a "complaint" found in K.S.A. 22-2202 to include a notice to appear issued by a law enforcement officer for unclassified and nonperson misdemeanors, so long as there is a memorandum of agreement between the law enforcement officer's agency and the county or district attorney in the jurisdiction where the notice to appear is issued and the notice to appear complies with the provisions found in K.S.A. 22-3201(b). The bill also amends K.S.A. 22-2408 to no longer require law enforcement officers file a complaint in the court in which a person was detained for a misdemeanor if that person is given a notice to appear that complies with the new definition of a complaint found in K.S.A. 22-2202.

Senate Bill 473 simplifies the paperwork required of law enforcement officers for nonperson and unclassified misdemeanors, which are typically the least serious of arrestable offenses. Rather than requiring officers to complete both a notice to appear and a formal complaint, the bill allows for properly formatted notices to appear that contain the same information as would be required in a complaint to be independently sufficient. Importantly, the statutory language includes a requirement that there be a memorandum of agreement established to ensure the county or district attorney is satisfied with the procedures in place by the law enforcement agency issuing these notices to appear.

We believe Senate Bill 473 would increase the efficiency of our law enforcement officers by simplifying the paperwork process through the elimination of what is now often a redundant step in the processing of less serious crimes. The bill would still require the notices to appear to conform with the informational obligations of a normal complaint, thus increasing productivity while retaining all essential detail. The advantages brought forth by the bill would also stand to benefit the court by removing what can commonly be a nonessential procedural formality.

The KHP supports Senate Bill 473 as we believe it offers improvements to law enforcement officers' efficiency when handling nonperson and unclassified misdemeanor crimes. We sincerely thank the members of this Committee for their consideration of our testimony, and we urge your support of this bill.

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