

Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 2146
House Committee on Transportation

Prepared by
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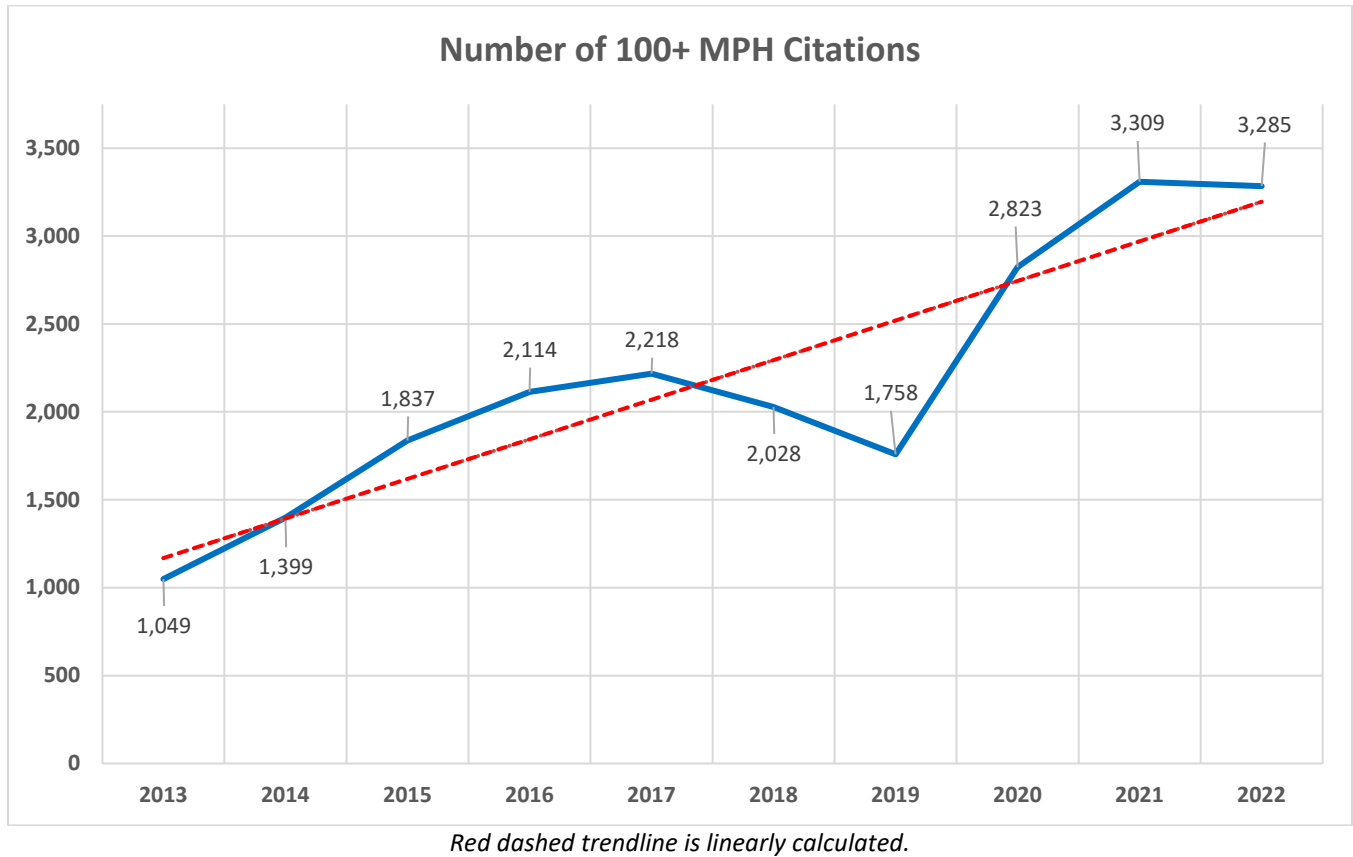
The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2146, and we respectfully request the Committee consider our agency's recommendation of the bill. House Bill 2146 amends K.S.A. 8-2118(c) by increasing the fine for violating K.S.A. 8-1558 to 8-1560b (speeding-related statutes) by 31 or more miles per hour from \$195 to \$500 and from \$15 to \$20 per mile per hour over 30 miles per hour over the limit. The bill also amends K.S.A. 8-2118 by creating a new subsection (i) that would increase the fine for a second conviction within five years of K.S.A. 8-1558 to 8-1560b by 31 or more miles per hour to \$750 plus \$25 per mile per hour over 30 miles per hour over the limit. For a third or subsequent conviction within five years, the fine would increase to \$1,000 plus \$30 per mile per hour over 30 miles per hour over the limit.

Drivers who exceed the maximum posted speed limit endanger their lives and the lives of all other motorists. Speeding presents a greater potential for the loss of vehicular control, particularly on wet or icy roads. Speeding reduces the effectiveness of occupant protection equipment, such as seatbelts and airbags, while also reducing the effectiveness of roadway safety measures, such as guardrails and median barriers. When one's speed doubles, one's stopping distance quadruples, making every increase in speed an exponentially more dangerous act. Speeding increases the degree of a crash's severity. As more force comes into the crash equation, there are more likely to be injuries and death. Speeding also puts the lives of our law enforcement personnel in peril as they must oftentimes exceed the speed of the violator's vehicle in order to initiate a traffic stop.

According to the latest published data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA, 2020), speed was a factor in 29% of all traffic fatalities nationwide. In 2021, the Kansas Department of Transportation reported 4,474 speed-related crashes with an estimated cost to motorists of \$1,512,155,465. This translates to one speed-related crash occurring in Kansas every one hour and 58 minutes. In the same year, 76 motorists lost their lives in speed-related fatality crashes, and 1,417 speed-related injury crashes occurred.

Our agency has seen a significant increase in the number of citations issued to drivers who are traveling 100 or more miles per hour since 2019. That year, 1,758 citations were issued for triple-digit speeds. In 2020, that number increased by over one thousand to 2,823 citations. 2021 saw an increase of nearly 500 more citations at 3,309, and in 2022 the total number of citations issued for drivers traveling 100 or more miles per hour exceeded 3,250. This is an 86% increase in the last three years (from 2019) and a 213% increase from a decade ago (in 2013). Over 300 citations issued in the last three years were for speeds of 120 miles per hour or more. One citation was issued for traveling 174 miles per hour in a 75 miles per hour speed limit zone. In another

case from July of 2021, an Audi A7 was checked at 202 miles per hour in a 65 miles per hour construction zone on the Turnpike. The driver was stopped, found to be under the influence of alcohol, and arrested on multiple charges.



This trend is not affecting Kansas alone. Other states are experiencing similar increases in speeding. The Missouri State Highway Patrol issued 1,628 citations in 2019 to drivers for traveling 100 miles per hour or more. In both 2020 and 2021, their agency issued over 2,600 citations each year for the same violation. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol’s citations for 100 miles per hour or more increased from 1,304 in 2019 to 1,769 in 2021. There were 601 citations in 2019 and 982 citations on average in 2020-2021 by the Nebraska State Patrol. The Iowa State Patrol issued 659 triple-digit speeding citations in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, that number increased to over 1,200.

By increasing fines for operating a vehicle in excess of 30 miles per hour over the maximum posted speed limit, the Kansas Highway Patrol believes that House Bill 2146 will decrease the occurrence of this type of dangerous behavior. The Kansas Highway Patrol fully supports House Bill 2146 as we believe it increases the safety of Kansans on our state’s roadways. We sincerely thank members of the Committee for their consideration of our testimony.

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