



**Testimony on House Bill 2574
House Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committee**

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

February 9, 2012

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 2574. This bill would allow the Superintendent to pursue the recovery of costs exceeding \$20,000, 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, all state agencies have endured significant cuts to their budgets in recent years. Since SFY 09, the KHP's SGF budget has been reduced by 18%, which exceeds \$6.6 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 will be further diminished if the fiscal relief afforded by HB 2574 does not come to fruition.

As a couple of examples of how this bill would benefit the Patrol, we, on average, spend about \$36,831 for each of the two, annual races at the Kansas Speedway and \$28,345 in support of the Country Stampede. HB 2574 would allow us to recover up to \$102,007 each year that is spent providing services to those who make a profit which results in a tremendous expense to the Kansas Highway Patrol.

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

#####