



KANSAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION

To: House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee

From: Kansas State Troopers Association
Steve Kearney, Executive Vice President

Date: February 6, 2019

Re: Support of HB 2031

Chairman Kelly and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for taking time today to consider this important matter. Please accept these remarks on behalf of the Kansas State Troopers Association. Our organization represents over 500 troopers, motor carrier inspectors, capital police officers and retirees. The KSTA is a proponent of HB 2031.

HB 2031 adds important elements regarding "Service Connected" disability for members of the Kansas Police and Fire (KPF) retirement system. This measure modernizes KPF by adding "*contraction of a bloodborne pathogen*" and "*cancer of the brain, skin, digestive system, hematological system or genitourinary system*" to the definition of Service Connected" disability.

It also adds elements that must be met as a conditions precedent to claiming such a disability such as:

- The member must report the exposure within two days after the member knew or reasonably should have known of the exposure;
- A baseline test establishes that the employee was not inflected with a bloodborne pathogen at the time of the on-the-job exposure;
- The member complies with reasonable and necessary medical procedures; and
- The member is determined to have a bloodborne pathogen within 24 months after the on-the-job exposure to the known or possible source.

Today's law enforcement environment puts our members at higher risk of contracting a permanent debilitating disease or illness from blood borne pathogens and cancer. Recognizing this concern in HB 2031 shows the legislatures continued support for the wellbeing of the Kansas law enforcement community.

Thank you for your support of this important measure.