

January 30, 2020

Representative Rich Proehl, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation

Re: HB 2481

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Chief Mark Barnett, I'm currently employed by the Canton Police Department. I've lived in Kansas since 2002 and have been in my position as Chief of Police since 2012.

I would like to see the Kansas Statute 8-1720 changed to allow law enforcement only to have the option of using all blue lights on their patrol cars. I am originally from the state of Ohio and it threw me off my first time in Kansas seeing law enforcement, Fire department, EMS, towing companies, and some state road crews all using red and blue warning lights.

I understand why some of these agencies use red and blue light on their vehicle, and that is to make other drivers believe there is law enforcement present to have them slow down and/or move over. But imagine for example, if you were a driver needing law enforcement assistance for whatever reason and you see red and blue flashing lights from a distance and when you get to the light you realize it's a tow truck loading up a car, or a front loader cleaning out a ditch.

I could have requested to make changes to the statute to where only law enforcement can have blue lighting and all of the other agencies would need to remove their blue lights, but that would be a very expensive change. So that is why I am requesting for this option for law enforcement. I believe this change would be good for the public and for law enforcement.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Chief Mark Barnett #616
Canton, Kansas Police Department