

SB 241 Opponent Testimony – written only
 Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
 Maximum retirement benefits for KP&F members
 Dave Trabert – President
 March 13, 2018



Chairman Longbine and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to SB 241, which would increase pension benefits for members of the Kansas Policy & Fire plan.

Current law allows KP&F members to collect benefits up to a maximum of 90 percent of the member’s calculated final average salary. Regular KPERS members don’t have a statutory cap but there’s a practical maximum in the low 60 percent range based on years of service and the multipliers.

KP&F members already enjoy a significant advantage over regular KPERS members (which seems appropriate given the risk involved to police and fire employees) and SB 241 would increase the advantage by boosting the maximum to 100 percent of final average salary. Many KP&F retirees were hired before 1993 and get to include overtime payments in the calculation of final average salary, which significantly inflates pensions.

Increasing pension benefits would increase current costs to the state and local governments and it would also add millions in unfunded liability. And that leads to higher taxes for citizens, with most of the burden falling on local property taxes.

Accordingly, we encourage the committee to reject SB 241 and thank the committee for its consideration.

2016 KP&F Pension Payment - Top 20 Regular Payments (Excludes One-Time Lump Sum Payouts)	
Last Employer	Regular Pension
City of Shawnee	\$135,628
Unified Gov't. Wyandotte County	\$133,163
Unified Gov't. Wyandotte County	\$126,482
Unified Gov't. Wyandotte County	\$117,486
City of Shawnee	\$116,883
Unified Gov't. Wyandotte County	\$108,179
City of Lenexa	\$106,313
City of Shawnee	\$106,293
City of Shawnee	\$103,131
City of Topeka	\$101,727
Unified Gov't. Wyandotte County	\$101,650
City of Topeka	\$100,878
City of Olathe	\$100,683
City of Lenexa	\$100,499
City of Shawnee	\$99,855
City of Leawood	\$99,795
City of Leawood	\$98,481
Kansas Highway Patrol	\$97,854
City of Salina	\$97,821
Unified Gov't. Wyandotte County	\$97,631

Source: KPERS as posted on KansasOpenGov.org