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**Testimony to the House Commerce, Labor and Economics Committee  
In Opposition to HB2506  
February 13, 2020**

Chairman Tarwater and Committee Members:

After reviewing HB2506, we believe the provisions are not conducive to assuring quality law enforcement officers and are difficult to implement in the manner of certification authorized by statute for law enforcement officers. By statute, certification by the Kansas Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training is not applied for by individuals. It is applied for by the hiring agency. Without a hiring agency there is no initial certification process as a law enforcement officer.

Current law enforcement certification processes would already allow a person coming from out of state to apply for a law enforcement position, be hired by a law enforcement agency without already being certified. This is then followed by issuance of a temporary certification upon request of the hiring agency pending full certification after either completing the course of study at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center or completing the out-of-state reciprocity training and testing.

Law enforcement must follow substantially different statutory laws from state to state. Case law can also vary from state to state and from one US Circuit Court to another. This is substantially different than many other professions.

Additionally, the proposed 10 business day requirement to issue a license is not practical to complete background checks, criminal history checks, and other hiring processes which a hiring agency must certify meets state qualification standards. This could result in a person being certified in Kansas while having misconduct issues or for a crime we wouldn't discover during the 10-day period.

We are not clear on the impact this bill could have on certification requirements such as US citizenship and several of the other requirements in state law if the person was certified or licensed in another state without those same requirements.

**For these reasons, we urge you to add law enforcement officers to the list of exempted professions found on page 5 lines 34-35 of the bill.**

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