

LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL

Highway Patrol Personnel Actions

SOURCE

This audit proposal was requested by Representative John Barker.

BACKGROUND

The Kansas State Highway Patrol was created in 1937 to enforce traffic and other state laws related to vehicles on state highways. The Highway Patrol also polices the Kansas Turnpike, provides security for public officials, administers the Capitol Police, inspects commercial motor carriers, and administers the Homeland Security Grant Program.

The Superintendent of the Highway Patrol is appointed by the Governor. Most other officers, troopers, security officers, and civilian personnel are part of the classified Civil Service System.

Governor Kelly appointed Colonel Jones as head of the Highway Patrol in 2019. Since his appointment, the Department of Administration and a private law firm have investigated complaints against Colonel Jones. The independent investigation, which was concluded in July 2020 found the complaints against Colonel Jones were unsubstantiated.

After these investigations, two majors were dismissed from the Highway Patrol in July 2020. Legislators have expressed concerns regarding whether these dismissals were handled properly and in accordance with agency policy.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY

The audit objectives listed below are the questions we would answer through our audit work. The steps listed for each objective convey the type of work we would do. These may change as we learn more about the audit issues.

Objective 1: Did the Highway Patrol follow applicable policies and procedures for the recent termination of two majors in July 2020?

Our tentative methodology would include the following:

- Work with Highway Patrol staff as well as Civil Service staff (if applicable) and review relevant policies to develop an understanding of the personnel policies and procedures in effect and relevant to the two major terminations in July 2020.

- Work with Highway Patrol staff and review documentation related to the two recent terminations of the two majors in July 2020.
- Compare the Highway Patrol's personnel documentation to its own policies and procedures and Civil Service policies (if applicable). Note any areas of discrepancy and discuss them with agency officials.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

We estimate this audit would require **100 staff hours** to complete.