



# K a n s a s I n s u r a n c e D e p a r t m e n t

**Sandy Praeger**

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PRAEGER CALLS FOR REVIEW OF STATE VEHICLE DRIVERS**

*Insurance Commissioner Recommends Changes to Improve Safety and Cut Costs*

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger says drivers of state vehicles need to be more closely monitored. Currently, the Kansas Department of Administration does not check the driving records of state employees who get behind the wheel of state cars. "Recent information provided to my office from the state's auto fleet insurance carrier clearly shows there is a safety problem," said Praeger. "Consequently, those safety risks translate into unnecessary increases in insurance premiums for Kansas taxpayers."

Data collected between April 1, 2002 and April 1, 2003 reviewed the Motor Vehicle Reports of 95 state employees who were involved in "at fault" accidents. Major findings show:

- 60 of these drivers or 63% had "clean" driving records
- 35 of these drivers or 37% had problem driving records
- 13 of the 35 problem drivers or 37% had two or more driving violations
- 3 of those drivers had DUI convictions

The report only includes information about drivers who were involved in accidents, but some of the information collected is shocking. Two of the worst driving records discovered include the following violations:

### Driver 1

- Chemical Test Failure (2)
- Suspended license due to failure to comply with a citation
- Failure to yield the right of way
- Expired or no driver's license
- Speed over posted maximum (2)

### Driver 2

- Habitual violator (2)
- Driving while suspended (2)
- DUI conviction
- Failure of alcohol test (2)
- Failure to yield
- Refused test for alcohol/drugs (2)

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Commissioner Praeger is asking Kansas Department of Administration Secretary Howard Fricke to make immediate preventative measures that would prohibit anyone with an unacceptable driving record from operating a state vehicle. The definition of an unacceptable driver could be as limited as drivers with more than one “at-fault” accident/conviction, or any driver with a major moving violation such as a DUI.

“The information I have received about the driving records of state employees is alarming,” said Praeger. “The state must take immediate action to improve the overall safety of the people of Kansas. We cannot afford to leave this issue unresolved.”

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