
Office of County Treasurer Joe Grisolano

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TO: Kansas House Transportation Committee

FROM: Joe Grisolano, Crawford County Treasurer

SUBJECT: HB 2181

Chairman Proehl and Committee members:

Thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of HB 2181 as Treasurer of Crawford County. This bill increases the cost for a Certificate of Title from \$10.00 to \$20.00. The additional amount will be retained by the County Treasurer for the Motor Vehicle Operating Fund.

The reason for this legislation is county motor vehicle offices have seen additional duties transferred from the state due to implementation of the DMVS computer system. The majority of these additional responsibilities are a result of the title approval process. Prior to DMVS, county offices sent all title information to KDOR and the Division handled approval duties. Currently the county retains \$2.00 of the \$10.00 fee and the state gets the other \$8.00.

According to the findings of the Legislative Post Audit Report on issues related to the DMV Modernization Project, shifting the title approval process has cost Kansas counties an additional \$1 million.

According to our research, 10 or 11 states charge less than \$10.00 for a Certificate of Title. If this bill is passed, Kansas will still be in the middle nationwide for the cost of a Certificate of Title. In Crawford County, customers commonly request a title and we often discover one has already been issued for the vehicle in question. When they learn a duplicate title is \$10.00 they almost always decide to pay the fee rather than locate the lost title.

A few years ago the Legislature passed SB 96 allowing County Treasurers to charge an additional facility fee up to \$5.00 per motor vehicle transaction due to the additional costs incurred by DMVS. Although we have not implemented this fee in Crawford County, several counties have. These additional fees can be unpopular with constituents. If HB 2181 is approved, I know most, if not all, counties currently charging facility fees will cease to charge them due to the increase in funds for titles.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask this committee to support HB 2181. It is a common sense approach allowing counties to receive more funding for increased work. This Legislation will allow County Treasurers to continue to provide the customer service all Kansans deserve at a reasonable cost. It will also keep Kansas county motor vehicle operations in the black for years to come. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony and allowing me to address you today. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.