

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Senate Bill 215

Testimony of Thomas Franzen, CTP, CPFO
Johnson County Treasurer & Finance Director

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Johnson County and the Kansas County Treasurer's Association as a member of the Legislative Committee in support of SB 215.

This legislation is intended to improve customer service and reduce both costs and the volume of motor vehicle customers that come in to a motor vehicle office on the last day of the month to renew their vehicle registration(s). Currently, one of the primary reasons our customers are in our offices on the last day of the month is because they have waited until too late in the renewal process to renew by mail or on-line and receive their registration decal back in time before their registration expires. Currently, K.S.A. 8-142 requires everyone to display a current registration decal on their vehicle, which requires the motoring public to physically have in hand their registration renewal decal by the last day of the month their registration expires.

The proposed change in legislation would allow the payment receipt the customer receives after renewing their vehicle(s) on-line to serve as valid proof of registration of their vehicle(s) for up to 10 days after the registration has expired. SB 215 will provide flexibility with regard to having to physically display your registration decal by the last day of the month. This change will allow people to renew their vehicle(s) on-line at the end of the month using the Kansas WebTags service and still remain compliant with timely registration while waiting for their decal to arrive by mail. Currently in Johnson County, we are processing mail and WebTags payment files within 24 hours of receipt.

We have modeled this change in the law after how the State of Kansas issues driver's licenses. Currently, when you apply for a driver's license, your transaction is processed and you receive a printed receipt that you keep with you until your driver's license arrives in the mail. That receipt serves as your driver's license in absence of the physical license. The State of Missouri has been successfully using a temporary receipt in its motor vehicle registration renewal process as well.

The Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) held multiple committee meetings with stakeholders on this issue last year. SB 215 includes feedback from law enforcement and other stakeholders. SB 215 also provides the opportunity for County Treasurers to reduce the amount of overtime expense incurred due to the spike in customers received at the end of each month.

Since the bill was introduced, KDOR officials have requested input clarifying specific elements of the proposal. Johnson County is fine with the proposed changes offered by KDOR. After

discussing with the Kansas County Treasurers Association, the Association is supportive of the changes as well. I understand Senator Wolf will offer an amendment to include the clarifications sought by KDOR.

In summary, avoiding a DMV office at the end of the month provides convenience and flexibility for our customers. It allows for more efficient processing of customers that must visit a DMV office at the end of the month to receive titling and other services. This bill also has the potential to reduce the cost of overtime expense for County Treasurers on the last days of the month.

Because of these issues, Johnson County is in full support of SB 215. I respectfully request your support and ask that this legislation be advanced from this committee for further action. Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to address any questions.