



Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties
To the Senate Ways & Means Committee
Opposing Testimony on Senate Bill 403 (Municipal Revenue through Traffic Citations)
March 2, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to oppose Senate Bill 403, a bill that would add new reporting requirements for cities and require cities to remit collected fines to the State when fines total more than 10% of a city's revenue. SB 403 also requires remittance of fines resulting from infractions on the National Network of Highways. Though directed at cities, this bill also affects counties, and we ask the Ways & Means Committee to oppose the measure.

Within our 105 Kansas counties, there are 259 city law-enforcement agencies. This is 328 less than the 627 cities in Kansas, and our local sheriffs assume a heightened responsibility of law enforcement in cities that eliminate their respective police departments. There are a number of cities that develop intergovernmental agreements with sheriffs to provide specific policing services within a city's boundaries, but there is often tension that arises regarding the amount of time and resources available to simultaneously serve as sheriff and police. Initial feedback on SB 403 suggests that few cities will trigger the 10% benchmark, but any reduction of police services in response to new economic disincentives adds additional pressure to county sheriffs.

Beyond this general concern, New Section 2 specifically risks further strain on our county sheriffs and county budgets. The prospect of the State appropriating 70% of fines collected by cities for infractions on the National Network of Highways risks enfolding cities into a major point of aggravation for counties—a disconnect between local services and revenue. Counties currently remit fines, penalties, and forfeitures to the State under K.S.A. 20-2801. Thus, counties impose taxes to fund law enforcement, but the State receives the offsetting revenue. KAC is concerned that imposing this change on cities would deter policing on the National Network of Highways, which would again add additional strain to county law enforcement. Not only do our counties oppose this change for cities, we would rather see a more intentional connection between services and taxes with counties and cities retaining the fines, penalties, and forfeitures arising from local enforcement of our statutes.

SB 403 has a bevy of policy implications that risk hindering law enforcement. KAC joins the Kansas Sheriffs Association in opposition to the bill, and we ask the committee to similarly vote against the measure.

Respectfully,
Nathan Eberline
Legal Counsel