

Approved February 24, 1989
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The meeting was called to order by Sen. Don Montgomery at
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./p.m. on February 23, 1989 in room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senators Frahm and Gaines - Excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Legislative Services
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dennis Schwartz, Kansas Rural Water Association
Wilbur Leonard, Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations
Alan Alderson, Attorney for The Kansas County Treasurers
Shirley Tate, Leavenworth County Treasurer & President, County Treasurers Assn.
Mike Billinger, Ellis County Treasurer
Jerry McCoy, Sedgwick County Treasurer
Gary Watson, Trego County Treasurer

The hearing began on SB 202 concerning easements in rural water districts. Dennis Schwartz, Kansas Rural Water Association, testified first in support of the bill. (See Attachment I). The Chairman asked Mr. Schwartz if there are problems with easements at present. Mr. Schwartz said there have been a few, and more and more are occurring with systems today because they are being built in remote areas. Sen. Petty asked how cities and counties deal with this issue. Mr. Schwartz was reluctant to speak on this but noted that cities and counties are usually on a utility easement clearly shown on public maps.

Sen. Daniels began a discussion regarding the added language on line 31 as to if it was intended to limit the bill to maintenance only. Mr. Schwartz said his understanding is that it includes waterlines after they have been installed and maintained as a part of the distribution system. Sen. Daniels continued that lines 32 and 33 seem to limit action to by reason of maintenance of the waterline, and felt that if something different is needed, the language ought to be studied. Mr. Schwartz felt "maintenance" means ongoing maintenance. Staff agreed with this but felt it might be wise to add additional language for clarification. Sen. Steineger felt clarification is also needed with regard to suits as included on line 31. Mr. Schwartz will work with staff on the necessary clarifying language.

Wilbur Leonard, Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations, testified next in support of the bill. (See Attachment II). Sen. Steineger noted that Mr. Leonard had addressed location in his testimony but not the question of maintenance. This concluded the hearing on SB 202.

Attention was turned to SB 235 regarding continuing professional education for county treasurers. Alan Alderson, attorney for The Kansas County Treasurers, testified first in support of the bill. (See Attachments III through V). Sen. Lee had questions regarding certification of incumbent and newly elected treasurers. She also asked if someone could take the course prior to the election. Mr. Alderson was not sure that this would be prohibited and felt it probably could be done. Sen. Lee noted that it would give an advantage to one already elected and certified during an election.

Shirley Tate, Leavenworth County Treasurer and President of the County Treasurers Association, stated her support for the bill and the amendments. The Chairman asked if she felt the bill has 100% support from the treasurers. She had no exact percent but felt that close to 100% would be in support.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
room 531-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on February 23, 1989.

Mike Billinger, Ellis County Treasurer, followed with testimony in support of the bill. (See Attachment VI).

Jerry McCoy, Sedgwick County Treasurer, offered his testimony in support of SB 235. (See Attachment VII).

Final testimony in support was given by Gary Watson, Trego County Treasurer. (See Attachment VIII).

The Chairman informed the committee he had received a letter in support of SB 235 from Eileen King, Riley County Treasurer. (See Attachment IX).

The minutes of February 22 were approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

Date: February 23, 1989

GUEST REGISTER

SENATE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
BOB BRADLEY	KS ASSOC of Counties	Topeka
MIKE BILLINGER	ELLIS CO. TREASURER	HAYS
Sary Watson	Jago Co Treasurer	Wa Keeney
Keith Lilly	Saline Co Treasurer	Salina
Lynn Scanlon	Jewell Co Treasurer	Mankato
Linda Finham	Marshall Co	Marysville
Susie Pomeroy	Leawood Co Reg'd Depts	Leawood
William Leonard	Comm Ks Farm Org	Topeka
James Stubbs	HBAK	"
Jerry Mulvey	Sedg. Co. Treas.	Urichville
Shirley J. Tate	Leavenworth Co Treas	Leawood, Ks
Ann Hamilton	Orange County Treasurer	Lyndon KS
Archie Hunter	Ford County Treasurer	Dodge City
Nancy Welsh	Douglas County Treas	Lawrence
Nancy Weeks	Haskell Co. Treas.	Sublette
Paul McDonald	Cowley Co Treas	Winfield
Cheryl Wozuski	Lafayette Co treasurer	Atwood, Ks
James H. Reker	Warren Co. Treasurer	Quinton
Barbara Buntz	Dept of Admin	Topeka
Bill Ervin	-	-
HAROLD GIBBON	✓ ✓ ✓	Topeka
Jane M. Kilg	Assoc. of CMHCs of Ks, Inc	Topeka

KRWA

February 23, 1989

To: Senate Local Government Committee

Re: Senate Bill 202

Rural Water Districts have been established by neighbors in rural areas working together for the benefit of all.

Thus, The Districts have generally established the policy that they do not pay for easements for the installation of water lines. This system has worked well for over thirty years of development of rural water systems.

Over the years we have been made aware of instances where water lines are on properties where for one reason or another there are no recorded easements. There are various reasons for this, some being:

1. Problems presented at the time of construction, (because of situations such as rock outcroppings, or other natural or man made obstacles) where a variance was agreed to between the landowner and the contractor, but which was not committed to writing;
2. Easements which were signed by the parties, but failed to be recorded;
3. Unintentional mistakes by the contractor;
4. As the line was being constructed, new extensions were made on the spot. The extensions were agreed to but the paper work was not completed.

The main time that we have experienced people raising the issue is when the person wants to hook up to the water system. In an attempt to avoid paying the normal Benefit Unit charge, they will attempt to use the fact that the District may not have a valid easement for its line on their property as a means to pay for the Benefit Unit.

This Bill was fashioned after KSA 17-4627 which is the same measure applying to Rural Electric Cooperatives.

The Kansas Rural Water Association would appreciate your support of this Bill.

Dennis F. Schwartz
KRWA Director

KANSAS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 226
Seneca, Kansas 66538
(913) 336-3760

2-23-89

Senate Local Gov't

Attachment I

Committee of . . .

Kansas Farm Organizations

Wilbur G. Leonard
Legislative Agent
109 West 9th Street
Suite 304
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(913) 234-9016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB NO. 202

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 23, 1989

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Wilbur Leonard, appearing on behalf of the Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations. A roster of our membership is attached to this brief statement.

By this bill landowners do not give up their right to object to the location of a waterline across their property, but they cannot sit idly by for an indefinite period before deciding to do something about it. All this does is to place a two year statute of limitations on any person who believes he has a cause of action against a rural water district because of the location of a waterline.

We believe that two years is a reasonable time within which to bring an action. Further, this restriction substantially parallels the limitation placed on persons who feel aggrieved by the location of power lines by a rural electric cooperative.

We thank you for this opportunity to indicate our support for Senate Bill No. 202.

2-23-89
Senate Local Gov't
Attachment II

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF KANSAS FARM ORGANIZATIONS

ASSOCIATED MILK PRODUCERS

KANSAS AGRI-WOMEN

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS

KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

KANSAS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

KANSAS ETHANOL ASSOCIATION

KANSAS FARM BUREAU

KANSAS FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL INSTITUTE, INC.

KANSAS GRAIN & FEED DEALERS ASSOCIATION

KANSAS LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

KANSAS MEAT PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

KANSAS PORK PRODUCERS COUNCIL

KANSAS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

KANSAS SEED DEALERS ASSOCIATION

KANSAS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

KANSAS STATE GRANGE

MID-AMERICA DAIRYMEN

KANSAS VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

KANSAS WATER WELL ASSOCIATION

WESTERN RETAIL IMPLEMENT AND HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

2-23-89
Senate L.G.
II - 2

ALDERSON, ALDERSON & MONTGOMERY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1610 SW TOPEKA AVENUE

P.O. Box 237

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612

(913) 232-0753

TELECOPIER (913) 232-1866

OF COUNSEL

C. DAVID NEWBERY

W. ROBERT ALDERSON, JR.

ALAN F. ALDERSON

STEVEN C. MONTGOMERY

JOHN E. JANDERA

JOSEPH M. WEILER

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: ALAN F. ALDERSON, ATTORNEY FOR THE KANSAS COUNTY TREASURERS ASSOCIATION

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 235

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 1989

I am appearing here today on behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association to urge your support for the passage of Senate Bill No. 235 which was introduced by this Committee at the Association's request.

Generally speaking, the provisions of Senate Bill No. 235 would require all new Kansas County Treasurers who will take office beginning in October of 1993 and each newly-elected county treasurer thereafter to complete at least 40 hours of continuing professional education in order to become certified and qualified to hold office. Those county treasurers now in office would not be required to complete the initial 40-hour requirement before re-election, but would not be able to become certified until the completion of a basic course on Kansas law and practice.

All county treasurers would be required to complete at least 10 hours of continuing professional education each calendar year in order to be qualified to hold office and to retain certification. This annual

2-23-89
Senate Local Gov't
Attachment III

requirement would apply to all treasurers who now hold office as well as those who will be elected for the first time in the future.

This law would be administered by the Department of Administration who would be responsible for accrediting programs and sponsors, granting approval of courses, receiving and considering the reports of the treasurers, establishing sufficient registration fees, issuing certificates to those treasurers completing their requirements and ensuring that a sufficient number of courses or programs are presented each year to allow all county treasurers to meet the initial and annual requirements.

The standards of any program for which credit approval is sought or set forth in section 5 of the bill and are designed to insure that each county treasurer fully comprehends the laws and other parameters within which they must operate.

The County Treasurers Association has several amendments it would like to offer to the bill, which would require any county treasurer who attends programs or courses in order to become certified or maintain certification to be paid expenses and a salary equivalent to that which is paid to a deputy county treasurer in the county in which they have been elected. These amendments would also clarify that the 40-hour basic course requirement was necessary in order to become certified and be given the designation of "certified county treasurer". They would further clarify that incumbent county treasurers are not subject to disqualification to

hold office for failure to complete the basic course requirements. Those treasurers would not, however, be able to be certified.

I have also distributed a balloon of amendments proposed by the Department of Administration and with which the county treasurers concur. Most of the amendments are clarifying or clean-up in nature and the Department of Administration has asked me to present these amendments on their behalf to the Committee.

There are several county treasurers here to testify and provide you with more information concerning the need for this legislation, but I would be happy to try to answer any questions you might have before they testify.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL NO. 235

On page 1, following line 35, by inserting two new subsections to read as follows:

"(d) The forty-hour requirement imposed under subsection (b) shall constitute a basic course of instruction on subjects related to Kansas laws and practices in the areas of financial management, governmental accounting, cash management, internal controls, personnel practices, data processing and other relevant subjects prescribed by the secretary of administration. The completion of this basic course shall entitle a county treasurer to use the designation of "certified county treasurer." No county treasurer shall use said designation unless he or she has completed the basic course of instruction and has been issued a certificate by the department of administration showing entitlement to that designation."

"(e) Each newly-elected county treasurer who is required to attend courses or programs in order to complete the requirements of subsection (b) prior to taking office shall be paid, from the county general fund, a proportional amount of the salary currently being paid to a deputy county treasurer of such county for each day such newly-elected county treasurer is required to attend such courses or programs. In addition, the county shall also pay to each such newly-elected county treasurer normal travel and lodging expenses, if applicable, and any registration fee for such courses or programs.";

On page 3, in line 111, following the period by inserting a new sentence to read as follows:

"The department of administration shall issue a certificate to each county treasurer who has successfully completed the basic course of instruction as provided in subsection (d) of section 1, and such certificate shall show, on its face, that the county treasurer to whom it has been issued is a "certified county treasurer."; in line 112, by striking the words "for certification"; in line 113, following the period, by inserting a new sentence to read as follows: "Any newly-elected county treasurer who fails to complete the basic course of instruction required under subsection (b) of section 1 shall also be subject to forfeiture of office."

2-23-89
Senate Local Gov't
Attachment IV

SENATE BILL No. 235

By Committee on Local Government

2-23-89
Senate Local Gov't
Attachment II

15 AN ACT concerning county treasurers; relating to continuing profes-
16 sional education.
17

18 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

19 Section 1. (a) ~~From and after the effective date of this act,~~ Each
20 county treasurer of this state, in order to remain eligible to hold
21 such office, shall be required to complete at least 10 hours of con-
22 tinuing professional education ~~each~~ calendar year.

in calendar year 1990 and in
succeeding
or in any subsequent election

23 (b) Any county treasurer elected to such office for the first time
24 at the general election in November of 1992, prior to taking office
25 in ~~October of 1993,~~ shall be required to complete at least 40 hours
26 of continuing professional education. The annual requirement pre-
27 scribed ~~herein~~ shall apply to such newly-elected county treasurers
28 commencing in the year after the treasurer takes office.

10 hour the following year
by subsection (a)

29 (c) County treasurers appointed to fill an unexpired term shall
30 be required to complete at least 10 hours of the initial continuing
31 professional education requirement under subsection (b) in each cal-
32 endar year of the unexpired term in addition to the annual require-
33 ments under subsection (a), except that in any calendar year
34 preceding the end of the unexpired term in which ~~no~~ courses ~~are~~
35 available, such requirement shall be waived.

there are an insufficient number of
to meet this requirement.

36 Sec. 2. ~~The municipal accounting section of the division of ac-~~
37 ~~counts and reports of~~ the department of administration shall admin-
38 ister the provisions of this act. The powers and duties of the
39 ~~municipal accounting section~~ shall include but not be limited to:

, under the supervision of the secretary of administration
department of administration

40 (a) Accrediting sponsors and programs and determining the num-
41 ber of hours of credit to be given for participation;

42 (b) granting or withdrawing approval of all or less than all courses

✓

2-23-89
Senate L.G.
V-2

- 44 (c) receiving and considering reports of county treasurers;
- 45 (d) granting waivers and extensions to complete requirements;
- 46 (e) giving all notices and certifications required by this act;
- 47 (f) sponsoring programs of instruction on subjects related to Kan-

48 sas law on governmental accounting, cash management, internal con-
49 trols, personnel practices, data processing and other relevant subjects

50 [qualifying for at least 40 hours credit each calendar year] and

51 (g) establishing registration fees payable to the department of
52 administration by each county treasurer in an amount deemed ap-
53 propriate to help defray the cost of administering this act.

54 The secretary of administration [shall] promulgate any rules and
55 regulations necessary to administer the provisions of this act.

56 Sec. 3. All credit hours necessary to complete the requirements
57 of subsection (b) of section 1 shall be for programs approved as
58 relating to Kansas law or practices. Of the requirements under sub-
59 section (a) of section 1, at least five of the credit hours required
60 annually shall relate to Kansas law or practices.

61 The [municipal accounting section] may grant waivers or extensions
62 of time to complete continuing professional education requirements
63 because of hardship, disability or other good cause.

64 Sec. 4. (a) Courses, programs or other continuing professional
65 activities presented by, or under the direct supervision of, the [mu-
66 nicipal accounting section] shall be deemed to be accredited for the
67 purposes of this act. The [municipal accounting section] may accredit
68 any other sponsor of courses, programs or other continuing profes-
69 sional activities for county treasurers of this state if the [municipal
70 accounting section] is satisfied that the sponsor's programs will meet
71 the standards set forth in section 5. Any organization or county
72 treasurer seeking accreditation of a course, program or other activity
73 for county treasurers shall apply to the [municipal accounting section]
74 at least 60 days before the activity. The [municipal accounting section]
75 shall approve or deny such application in writing within 30 days of
76 receiving the same.

77 (b) Any county treasurer seeking credit for attendance at or par-
78 ticipation in an educational activity which was conducted by an un-
79 accredited sponsor or which was otherwise unaccredited, shall submit
80 to the [municipal accounting section] a request for credit, which shall

financial management,

at the time of submitting continuing professional education activities for credit and for programs, or other continuing education courses preselected or sponsored by the department of administration. Such fees shall be set

may

department of administration

department of administration

department of administration

department of administration

department of administration

department of administration

department of administration

81 include a description of the activity, dates, subjects, instructors and
 82 their qualifications, the number of credit hours requested and any
 83 other information required by the [municipal accounting section]
 84 Within 90 days after receipt of such application, the municipal ac-
 85 counting section shall advise the county treasurer in writing whether
 86 credit is granted and the amount of credit allowed.

department of administration

87 Sec. 5. The following standards shall be met for any program
 88 for which credit or approval is sought:

- 89 (a) It shall have significant intellectual or practical content;
- 90 (b) it shall deal primarily with matters related to the duties,
 91 responsibilities or operation of the office of county treasurer and
 92 which are related to the competence to hold such office;
- 93 (c) it shall be presented by a person qualified by practical or
 94 academic experience to present the subject;
- 95 (d) written materials should be distributed whenever practicable
 96 to all participants at or before the time the program is offered; and
- 97 (e) it shall be presented in a suitable classroom setting devoted
 98 to the educational activity or program.

The department of administration, to the extent practicable,
 shall sponsor, present, supervise or otherwise insure that a
 sufficient number of programs, courses or other qualifying
 professional education activities are presented during each
 calendar year, at appropriate times and locations, to enable
 all county treasurers and county treasurers-elect to meet the
 requirements of section 1.

99 Sec. 6. Continuing professional education credit shall be awarded
 100 on the basis of one hour for each 50 minutes devoted to professional
 101 educational activities. [The municipal accounting section, to the extent
 102 practicable, shall sponsor, present or supervise a sufficient number
 103 of programs, courses or other qualifying professional educational ac-
 104 tivities during each calendar year, at appropriate times and locations,
 105 to enable all county treasurers and county treasurers-elect to meet
 106 the requirements of section 1.]

department of administration

107 Sec. 7. The [municipal accounting section] shall issue certificates
 108 to each county treasurer and county treasurer-elect evidencing the
 109 successful completion of continuing professional education require-
 110 ments for each calendar year in which a county treasurer is required
 111 to complete such requirements. Any county treasurer who fails to
 112 successfully complete the requirements for certification in any cal-
 113 endar year shall be subject to forfeiture of office.

, except as provided in section 3,

114 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after
 115 its publication in the statute book.

12-23-89
 Senate L.G.
 IV-3

MIKE "MICKY" BILLINGER
TREASURER

JERRY SCHMIDTBERG
DEPUTY TREASURER

OFFICE OF
ELLIS COUNTY TREASURER
DRAWER 520
HAYS, KANSAS 67601

TAX OFFICE 913-628-8249
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION OFFICE 913-628-2034

February 23, 1989

To: Members of the Senate Local Government Committee

From: Mike Billinger, Ellis County Treasurer

RE: Senate Bill #235.

Mr. Chariman and Members of the Senate Local Government Committee.

Good morning, I'm Mike Billinger, Treasurer of Ellis County and I'm here speaking on behalf of the Kansas County Treasurer's Association.

My appearance today on behalf of SB #235 has been anxiously anticipated. For the past six years County Treasurers have discussed a certification and professional continuing education program. The inception of such a program is left to the discretion of this committee to take the initial legislative step.

The insightful Spanish Jesuit, Baltasar Gracian, three and one-half centuries ago captured the spirit of SB #235 in these words. "Think in anticipation, today for tomorrow, and indeed, for many days. The greatest providence is to have forethought for what comes. What is provided for does not happen by chance, nor is the man who is prepared ever beset by emergencies. One must not, therefore, postpone consideration till the need arises. Consideration should go beforehand. You can, after careful reflection, act to prevent the most calamitous events... Thought and forethought give counsel both on living and on achieving success."

Many reform minded groups are in favor of "improved financial administration from County Treasurers", yet are opposed to specific proposals to realize this concept. Mandatory professional education for County Treasurers is our solution to improved financial administrators.

Last year a major cleanup campaign was waged in a Kansas county following the discovery of a serious misappropriation of funds in the County Treasurer's office. As a result of this campaign the Treasurer's office was stripped of many responsibilities, thus altering the fundamental purpose of the office. With the implementation of SB #235 our goal to maintain the Treasurer as an elected official could be realized as well as protecting the public from unintentional financial mismanagement.

History defines County Treasurers as tax collectors who are responsible for recording and distributing tax payments. However with the passage of time the aforementioned definition has drastically changed requiring Treasurer's to be

2-23-89
Senate Local Gov't
Attachment VI

more knowledgeable in order to be most effective. The days of being just a good bookkeeper are history. Today Treasurers must be acquainted with a variety of financial administrative concepts, which have been dictated by changes through the years. Some such changes are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Bank Deregulation | 11) Investment options |
| 2) Cash Management Programs | A. Passbook Accounts |
| 3) Financial Forecasting & Reporting | B. Super Now Accounts |
| 4) Bankruptcy Laws | C. Money Market Accounts |
| 5) Management of Computers | D. Long Term Investments |
| 6) Personnel Management | E. Short Term Investments |
| 7) Budgetary Responsibilities | F. Interest Risk |
| 8) GAAP | 12) Purchasing |
| (Generally Accepted Accounting | 13) Increased reliance on written |
| Principales) | as well as verbal communications |
| 9) Collection systems which are | 14) Internal Controls |
| mini accounting systems | 15) Enterprise Funds |
| 10) Collection of Delinquent Taxes | |

Along with the increased responsibilities demanded of County Treasurers has come the need to learn these responsibilities. Each new function requires a learning or educational process. Unfortunately specialized education has been a rarity and has contributed to major disparities between Treasurers of similar counties. For example some County Treasurers maintain excellent cash management and investment programs, whereas others have no programs at all. One group generates approximately \$500,000.00 annually in interest earnings, the other by chance generates \$350,000.00 annually in interest earnings. The difference of \$150,000.00 is a loss in revenues which ultimately becomes a tax liability for taxpayers. The potential loss of interest revenues is as serious a loss as misappropriation of funds.

I would like to read a brief excerpt from Investing Public Funds by Girard Miller, a noted public funds expert, and sponsored by Government Finance Officers Association. "Training of employees in the proper administration of the investment function can help to minimize losses and ensure alert attention to details. Frequently errors result from employees being inadequately trained for the job they are assigned. Although most public employees are reluctant to try anything new when there is a risk of loss, occasional incidents of ill-advised investment actions and technical blunders by incompetent employees have revealed insufficient management attention to the training function." In order for our employees to be properly trained a prerequisite would be for County Treasurers to be professionally educated.

In conclusion I ask you to inquire of county auditing firms, business associates or financial institutions as to their thoughts on SB #235. I assure you that in time as County Treasurers become certified; interest income, efficient management procedures and other benefits will be realized by County Governments.

Thank you for your time and considerations. If you should have any questions, I will attempt to answer them at this time.

Mike Billinger
Ellis County Treasurer
Member of the KCTA Legislative Committee.

2-23-89
Senate L.G.
VI-2



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

TREASURER

Jerry McCoy

SUITE 107

COUNTY COURTHOUSE, WICHITA, KANSAS 67203-3703

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES/VEHICLE REFUNDS
REAL ESTATE TAXES

268-7651
268-7414

DISTRIBUTION AND BONDS
CASHIER

268-7561
268-7345

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 23, 1989
REGARDING SENATE BILL 235 WITH AMENDMENTS.

As Sedgwick County Treasurer and as a Kansas Representative on the National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers (NACTFO), I have long been a supporter of continuing education for county treasurers. In fact, I will complete my final year of NACTFO's National Certification Program this summer at the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in Cincinnati.

I am convinced that the increasing sophistication required to prudently manage public funds, to comply with new federal and state requirements and laws, and to accomplish the strategic planning necessary today in the treasurer's office, requires an ever-increasing amount of continuing education.

A state-wide treasurer's certification plan will provide for the professional growth necessary to do the best job possible that the taxpayers have every right to expect from their elected officials.

Therefore, I strongly urge your support for Senate Bill 235 as amended and supported by the Kansas County Treasurers Association.

2-23-89
Senate Local Gov 4
Attachment VII

Trego County Kansas
Courthouse
WaKeeney, Kansas 67672

GARY WATSON
Treasurer of Trego County
216 North Main Street
WaKeeney, Kansas 67672
(913) 743-2001

Date: February 23, 1989
To: Senate Committee on Local Government
From: Gary Watson, Trego County Treasurer
Re: S.B. 235

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Gary Watson. I am the Treasurer from Trego County. I am here, today, as a representative of the Kansas County Treasurer's Association.

In addressing the continuing education and certification program, I will try to provide information from a small county point of view. With a population of about 4000 people, Trego County is among the smaller counties in the state.

One of the problems confronting the smaller counties is that many people run for office as a means of creating a secondary income or, because of the low salary, they are forced to find another job to supplement their income. For whatever reason, many of those Treasurers haven't devoted the time to completely educate themselves. This jeopardizes the Treasurer's ability to manage the office to it's fullest potential. A mandatory training program would, inevitably, improve these conditions. It definitely isn't a "cure all" but it is an excellent starting point.

Most small counties are struggling desperately to survive. Anything to generate more income for the County would have long range benefits to the County and to the taxpayers. Learning to more effectively carry out the functions of the County Treasurer's Office would increase revenues and help reduce the tax burden that already is a problem for most taxpayers. How much will be gained depends on the effort each Treasurer is willing to put forth.

The intentions of this proposal is not to force anybody from office or to narrow the field of candidates but to better educate any person holding office so that person can do a better job for the people they represent. We are not setting any type of qualifications to seek office, but we are trying to do a better job of education after an individual is in office.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions I will attempt to answer them.

Gary Watson
Trego County Treasurer
Treasurer of the KCTA

2-23-89
Senate Local Gov 4
Attachment VIII

R. Eileen King
Riley County Treasurer

110 Courthouse
913/537-6000

OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER
RILEY COUNTY
MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66502

February 14, 1989

*Need to Notify when
we have hearing*
*Sent copy of agenda
2-15-89*

Senator Don Montgomery
Kansas State Senate
State Office Building Room 503-N
Topeka, Ks 66612

Honorable Sen. Don Montgomery,

I am writing to you in support of **SB 235** relating to continuing professional education for County Treasurers. The Treasurer's Association has been working on this for a long time. For the most efficient and responsive County Government, it is imperative that the Treasurer (who is the custodian and safekeeper of the County Funds) be the most qualified and knowledgeable as possible. Through the continuing profession education requirements, we feel this will benefit all counties, large and small. The intent is to provide Treasurer's with the opporunity to learn more about various aspects of their jobs and not circumvent the electoral process. We feel that we can have a method for certification and still have our offices elective. If a Treasurer does not choose to become certified that is her(his) decision. It would be up to the voter in that county to determine if the certification is important to them and their county.

This is just a brief explanatin of my support for SB 235, if you would like to discuss this further, I will be available. I just want you to know that I feel very strongly that this is needed and I support it whole-heartedly. Thank you for you consideration. I appreciate any support you can give to the County Treasurer's and SB 235.

Sincerely,

R. Eileen King
R. Eileen King.

*2-23-89
Senate Local Gov't
Attachment IX*