

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

The meeting was called to order by Sen. Bill Morris at \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

9:02 a.m./~~p.m.~~ February 15, 1989 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

Members present were:

Senators Morris, Doyen, Francisco, Kanan, F. Kerr, Martin, Rock, Sallee and Thiessen.

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes  
Louise Cunningham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Alan Alderson, Attorney, Kansas County Treasurers' Association  
Shirley Tate, President, County Treasurers' Association  
Betty McBride, Treasurer, Cherokee County  
Nancy L. Welsh, Douglas County Treasurer  
Mark Wettig, Department of Revenue  
Lt. Bill Jacobs, Kansas Highway Patrol  
Ray Arvin, Topeka

Chairman Morris introduced Shelly Tophams and Jason Ly who were on a class assignment from Campus High School in Wichita.

KDOT had a bill request to require that the Department of Transportation will devise and prepare all written accident reports instead of the Division of Motor Vehicles. A motion was made by Sen. Francisco to introduce the proposed request as a committee bill. Motion was seconded by Sen. Doyen. Motion carried.

Hearing on S.B. 129 - Vehicle registration fees, county treasurer.

Alan Alderson, Attorney, Kansas County Treasurers Association, said it was difficult in many counties to continue to operate on present fees for registering and renewing the registration of a motor vehicle. They were asking for an increase in fees from \$1.00 to \$3.00. A copy of his statement is attached. (Attachment 1).

Shirley Tate, President, County Treasurers' Association, thanked the committee for the opportunity to appear before them. They support the bill.

Betty McBride, Treasurer, Cherokee County, spoke of the need for increased funding. Since the system has been computerized (VIPS) there have been unforeseen expenses and in some cases it has been necessary to use county general funds. A copy of her statement is attached. (Attachment 2).

Nancy L. Welsh, Douglas County Treasurer, said last year they had to pick up \$25,000 from the county general fund to cover the motor vehicle department. An increase is necessary to be able to operate in an efficient manner. A copy of her statement is attached. (Attachment 3).

There was some discussion that perhaps the four largest counties should be handled separately. Ms. McBride said it had always been handled uniformly but there was no problem with that.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES,  
room 254-E Statehouse, at 9:02 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on February 15, 1989

Mark Wettig, Department of Revenue, said they have no objection to S.B. 129.

Hearing on S.B. 130 - Traffic regulation, wig-wag lights.

Lt. Bill Jacobs, described the wig-wag lights and said they would be used on emergency vehicles. The cost was estimated to be approximately \$6.00 per vehicle and this was not mandatory. A copy of his statement is attached. (Attachment 4).

Ray Arvin, Topeka, said he has traveled extensively after retiring and has seen these lights in many states. They seem to be more visible than a rotating red light and he said they are a great advantage.

A motion was made by Sen. Sallee to recommend S.B. 130 favorably and that it be placed on the Consent Calendar. Motion was seconded by Sen. Rock. Motion carried.

On a motion from Sen. Sallee and a second from Sen. F. Kerr the Minutes of February 13 were approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: SENATE TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES COMM.

DATE: 2-15-89

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION
Jerry McCoy	P.O. Box 3412 WICHITA, KS 67201	Sedgwick Co Treasurer
Shirley J Tate	1206 1/2nd Ave Leawood, Ks 66048	Leawood County Treasurer
Nancy Welsh	Courthouse 11 <sup>th</sup> Mass Lawrence	Douglas Co. Treasurer
Donna Shulte	120 Champa Pratt, Ks	Pratt Co. Treas & Dist
Colleen Brown	Box 546 Ashland Ks 67831	Dick Co. Treasurer
Melma Barnett	Box 73 Caldwells Ks 67029	Cimarron Co. Treas
Dorothy McDonald	P.O. Box 744 Winfield, Ks 67156	Bowling Co. (Treas)
Keith Lilly	Mentor, Kans. 67465	Saline Co. Treasurer
Edith McBride	Columbus, Mo	Charles Co. Treasurer
Mike Bellinger	BOX 520 HAYS	K.C.T.A.
Lynn Scanlon	307 N. Commercial	Tewell Co. Treas
Dorothy Hunter	2315 - 5 <sup>th</sup> Dodge City	Dodd Co. Treasurer
NANCY WEEKS	Box 578 Sublette, Ks.	HASKELL CO. TREAS.
Harold B Tennant	TOPEKA KS	DIR. OF VEHICLES
Woody Woodman	KC Mo P.O. Box 679	KCP&L
Terry Maple	TOPEKA	KHP
Kay Brown / Jean Brown	Topeka	Citizens
Lt. BILL JACOB S	TOPEKA	KHP
Terry Heidner	Topeka	KDOT
Alan Anderson	TOPEKA	KS COUNTY TREASURER
Mark Well		KDOR
Tom Skinner	"	" "
<del>Jerry</del>	<del>3015 1/2 11th West</del> Ks	
John Tarbert	Topeka	KAC

ALDERSON, ALDERSON & MONTGOMERY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
1610 SW TOPEKA AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 237  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
(913) 232-0753

TELECOPIER (913) 232-1866

W. ROBERT ALDERSON, JR.  
ALAN F. ALDERSON  
STEVEN C. MONTGOMERY  
JOHN E. JANDERA  
JOSEPH M. WEILER

OF COUNSEL  
C. DAVID NEWBERY

MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES  
FROM: ALAN F. ALDERSON, ATTORNEY FOR THE KANSAS COUNTY TREASURERS  
ASSOCIATION  
RE: SENATE BILL NO. 129  
DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 1989

During the 1985 legislative session, the service fee payable at the time of registering or renewing the registration of a motor vehicle was increased from 50¢ to \$1.00. At that time, the County Treasurers Association assured this Committee that the County Treasurers would make this increase, which is used to pay expenses of the office and additional compensation, last four years. Four years has now passed, and in many counties it has been difficult to continue to operate on the funds provided by this modest increase.

Senate Bill No. 129 would amend K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 8-145d to increase the service fee from \$1.00 to \$3.00. All of this service fee is deposited in the special fund created pursuant to K.S.A. 1988 Supp. 8-145 and is used to defray the costs of administering the vehicle registration and titling laws of the state -- a function performed by the vehicle sections of the various county treasurers' offices -- and to provide additional compensation to the treasurers for performing these state functions.

ATT. 1  
T&U  
2/15/89

Senate Bill No. 129 would increase the compensation provisions of the law from the current \$360.00 per 1000 vehicle registrations to \$520.00 per 1000 registrations and would correspondingly increase the maximum amounts payable to any county treasurer from \$3,600 per calendar year to \$5,200 per calendar year.

You should be aware that, in some counties in this state, neither the county treasurer nor the county treasurer's office actually receives or expends the funds provided through this service fee or the special funds. In these counties, the county general fund subsidizes the operation of the vehicle section of the county treasurer's office. We do not believe this fact should alter the county's entitlement to the funds and, whether or not the county general fund budget covers the vehicle operations or not, the county or the county treasurer should be reimbursed for the extraordinary cost of operating this office.

With me today are two county treasurers who will provide more specific details on the operation of the county treasurer's office and the use of the special fund money. Betty McBride is the County Treasurer of Cherokee County and Nancy Welsh is the County Treasurer of Douglas County. If their testimony does not specifically answer any questions you may have, please feel free to request specific information from them.

I would also be happy to try to answer any questions you may have. On behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association, we would urge your support for the passage of Senate Bill No. 129.

*Betty McBride, Treasurer*

CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS



COLUMBUS, KANSAS 66725

TO: Members of the Senate Transportation Committee  
FROM: Betty McBride, Cherokee County Treasurer  
RE: Senate Bill No. 129  
DATE: February 15, 1989

Chairman Morris, Members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Betty McBride. I want to extend my appreciation to this committee for allowing me the opportunity to appear today on behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association to seek your support for passage of Senate Bill 129

Passage of Senate Bill 129 would provide the necessary funding for the operation of the County Treasurer's motor vehicle offices by increasing the service fee on vehicle registrations, \$2.00. County Treasurers serve as agents for the State of Kansas in registering and titling vehicles. The County Treasurer's Association appears before the legislature when additional funding is needed for this operation. Such is the case as I appear before you today.

In the past year VIPS (Vehicle Information Processing Systems) which provided computerization of County Treasurer's vehicle offices with the State of Kansas vehicle system has been implemented in all County Treasurer's offices throughout the state. The VIPS system has been a tremendous improvement providing better and quicker service to the public. However it also caused many unforeseen

ATT. 2  
T&U  
2/15/89

expenses. In some counties additional employee's have been required. Employee overtime has been a must in nearly all counties. Telephone service to the State support center has increased telephone billing in all counties. Ribbons for printer and printer paper for reports are also additional costs for Counties. In the past, forms, NADA manuals, vehicle law books and envelopes were provided by the State. We will now be required to purchase these items from our County motor vehicle budget. Dedicated printers were required to issue sales tax receipts to the taxpayer. This was also at county expense. Nearly all County Treasurer's offices had to be remodeled or enlarged to prepare for the VIPS implementation. In most cases the county general fund was required to provide funding for this large undertaking.

A two dollar increase may seem excessive, however the funding is for a probable four year period and the excess would only be visible during the first year of enactment. All fees remaining in the motor vehicle fund at the end of each calendar year are transferred to the county general fund. Therefore the taxpayer receives tax relief by lower levies and County Commissioners who are supplementing most motor vehicle offices and who are becoming more and more cost conscious because of budget cuts and loss of State funding would be appeased by the reimbursement of such funding to the County General fund.

Cherokee County has four employees in the motor vehicle office. In 1988 we issued 20,907 registrations and 7,292 titles. The total dollars collected in registering vehicles was \$465,210.06. The State highway fund received \$409,498.88 of these funds. The County vehicle fund retained \$51,171.25 for the operation of the motor vehicle office. Expenditures were as follows,

SALARIES-----	\$53,969.76
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS-----	\$11,322.98
COMMODITIES-----	\$10,646.65
POSTAGE-----	\$ 1,392.00
TELEPHONE SERVICE-----	\$ 2,257.00
OFFICE REMODELING FOR VIPS-----	\$ 6,781.87
ADDITIONAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR VIPS OPERATION.	
PRINTER-----	\$ 2,730.00
DISPLAY STATION-----	\$ 1,288.00
MAINTENANCE ON EQUIPMENT-----	\$ 720.00
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 1988-----	 \$91,108.26

As you can see County General funded \$39,937.01 last year for the motor vehicle operation in Cherokee County.

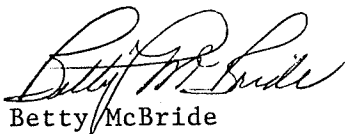
There are thirty eight counties in the state of Kansas which issue 10,000 or less registrations per year. They are therefore able to fund a very small portion of their motor vehicle operation. Twenty of these counties retain fees of less than \$10,000.00 per year and would not even be able to pay one salary from the vehicle fund, therefore these counties operate directly from the County General fund and are nearly 100% County funded.



Senate bill 129 also increases the Treasurer's compensation from \$360.00 per 1,000 registrations or a maximum of \$3,600 to \$520.00 per 1,000 registrations or a maximum of \$5,200.00. The increase would compensate Treasurer's for the administration of the motor vehicle department and for the additional responsibilities County Treasurer's have had to assume with the implementation of VIPS. Nearly all County Treasurer's have had to put in additional hours, and many Treasurer's are staying late each night to do end of day procedures. Many Treasurer's do not receive the compensation allowed by statute due to Their County Commissioners, who reduce their county salary by the amount of the compensation they would receive, therefore this means more funding for the County General fund.

On behalf of the Kansas County Treasurer's Association I ask your favorable consideration for passage of senate bill 129. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have regarding this matter.

Respectfully,



Betty McBride  
Cherokee County Treasurer



**Douglas County Treasurer**  
**DOUGLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
Eleventh & Massachusetts  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

February 15, 1989

TO: Members of the Senate Transportation & Utilities Committee  
FROM: Nancy Welsh, Douglas County Treasurer  
RE: Support of Senate Bill 129

On behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association, I wish to express my interest and support of Senate Bill 129. Previous to this hearing, each of you should have received a letter giving you background information on the Treasurers "Special Auto Fund". In summary, that letter explains the fees and compensation (KSA-145) counties receive to maintain and operate the motor vehicle department at the county level. For every license plate we sell (costing taxpayer \$5.00 to \$27.00), the county retains \$1.75. For every title application done at a cost of \$9.00, the county retains \$2.00. The balance of these monies collected are sent to the state daily and credited to the highway fund. In 1988 Douglas county collected \$1,425,000.00. Of that amount \$146,000.00 was retained at the county level for the operation of the motor vehicle department. With the motor vehicle title and registration operation under the jurisdiction of the Kansas Department of Revenue and supervised and administered by all County Treasurers throughout the state, these monies become the operating budgets of our motor vehicle departments as provided by KSA 68-416.

In Douglas county, the operation of the motor vehicle department is solely dependent on the fees we retain. For 1988, I had to rely on the county general fund to pick up \$25,000 expenses for my motor vehicle department. My motor vehicle department is staffed with 10 fulltime employees and 3 part-time employees. Salaries alone are \$172,000.00. This includes longevity, accumulated leave pay but no overtime. Additional expenses for this department in 1988 were \$20,925.00 and included:

- \$5,000.--Postage to mail out new license plates, mail daily reports and correspondence. We collect .50 to mail out license plates; however, it costs us \$1.05 to mail them.
- \$2,000.--Printing stationary and envelopes. Beginning July 1989, the Department of Revenue will no longer furnish envelopes for counties to mail registration receipts. This will be an additional cost of \$500.-\$1,000. per year.
- \$8,000.--Data processing equipment. The Department of Revenue installed the initial VIP's equipment in each county Treasurer's office. The number of terminals and equipment needed was determined based on the number of registrations sold. I have already purchased an additional terminal and printer to maintain efficiency in handling the public. When the sales tax program was added to VIP's, we were required to purchase the printer

(cont'd)

Nancy L. Welsh, County Treasurer  
Courthouse

Eleventh & Massachusetts / Lawrence, Kansas 66044 / (913) 841-7700

ATT. 3  
T&U  
2/15/89

to generate that receipt. We must also purchase the ribbons for the printers, paper for running the end of day reports and pay for the maintenance of the additional hardware purchased. That all becomes an annual cost to the county.

\$1,925.--Purchase of office equipment such as typewriters, calculators, supplies to operate and the maintenance expense on the equipment.

\$1,500.--Furniture such as desks, chairs, file cabinets. Since the registration form size has enlarged considerably due to VIP's, additional filing space is needed.

\$2,500.--Office supplies. We must purchase all of our own supplies such as pens, pencils, paper clips, ribbons, staples, NADA books, vehicle law book etc.

Although VIP's has proven what it was set out to accomplish, the counties have endured a tremendous expense in maintaining that efficiency level. When VIP's was installed in the counties, no consideration was taken as to how this equipment was going to fit in the offices. Remodeling costs to accomodate this equipment was at the expense of the county and in Douglas county, that cost was \$25,000.

The cost of operating the motor vehicle department has gone up every year with salary increases, vendor expenses and additional purchases and expenses that the state has previously provided and will no longer supply. In ten years, the cost of operating the motor vehicle department has jumped from \$42,000. to \$169,000, about 300%. The number of registrations sold has only increased by 23%.

By increasing the fee we retain, we can continue to operate in an efficient manner. If we are limited to the fee we retain now, it continues to become a severe problem on the county level. Since the legislature imposed a lid on the tax levy for counties through 1990, no new dollars will be generated or available and our general fund has no room for expansion to pick up the additional expense of operating the motor vehicle department.

Acting as agents for the state, we consider the operation of this department a major responsibility in the Treasurers office and it is vitally important to us to be able to maintain the efficiency in dealing with the public. We are the one office in the county courthouse that 99% of the people must deal with at least once a year.

As stated in my previous letter to you, County Treasurers (as managers of the motor vehicle department) must have knowledge of Kansas statutes and must implement such statutes and departmental regulations in the Treasurers office.

The compensation for County Treasurer's themselves is the salary they receive from the state for managing the motor vehicle department. This money is paid to us at the end of the year and is paid out of the same fund for operating the department.

Your consideration and support of this increase will allow us to continue to provide the necessary services for administering the motor vehicle department for the Department of Revenue.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Before the Senate Transportation and Utilities Committee

February 15, 1989

Senate Bill 130

Presented by the Kansas Highway Patrol

(Lieutenant William Jacobs)

Appeared in Support of Senate Bill 130

The Kansas Highway Patrol supports Senate Bill 130. Senate Bill 130, if passed, would permit the use of alternately flashing or simultaneously flashing head lamps on emergency vehicles. Those type lights are commonly referred to as "wig-wag lights".

The proposed legislation is requested for two reasons. The main reason being safety. Emergency vehicles are more visible when these lights are used in emergency situations in conjunction with other required emergency equipment.

The second reason is that some emergency agencies in Kansas have installed, and are using these lights now, even though there is no provision for them in existing law. Passage of this Bill would bring these vehicles in conformance with the laws that govern emergency vehicle operation.

The proposed Bill would not mandate the use of "wig-wag lights", therefore, it would not be a burden to those agencies which do not presently have funds for conversion to the lights.

For reasons stated above, especially the safety aspect provided to operators of emergency vehicles and the public at large, we respectfully request your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 130.

ATT. 4  
T&U  
2/15/89