

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary K. Hayzlett at 1:30 p.m. on March 20, 1997 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Jim Long, excused

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Buchanan, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Willie Martin, Sedgwick County Intergovernmental Relations
Randy Allen, Kansas Association of Counties
Eileen King, Riley County Treasurer and President, Kansas County Treasurer's Association
Joyce Coker, Johnson County Government

Others attending: See attached list

SB 188 - Satellite registration fee, vehicle registration

The Chair opened the hearing on **SB 188**.

Willie Martin, Sedgwick County Intergovernmental Relations, on behalf of the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners, testified in support of **SB 188** as it provides for a fee not to exceed \$5 on transactions processed at satellite tag registration stations. This will reduce reliance on property tax as a source to provide the satellite stations. She would support this option for all counties rather than just the 7 counties as amended in the Senate. (Attachment 1)

Randy Allen, Kansas Association of Counties, testified in support of **SB 188** but urged the committee to amend the bill to include the option for all 105 counties rather than for just the counties listed in the bill.

Eileen King, Riley County Treasurer and President of Kansas County Treasurer's Association supports the original concept of **SB 188** which allowed any county to meet the need for operating a satellite registration facility by assessing a fee. She feels it should be optional for all counties and not for a few selected counties. (Attachment 2)

Joyce Coker, Johnson County Government, testified in support of **SB 188**. Currently Johnson County does not charge for transactions at their satellite stations, but would like to have this option.

Written testimony in support of **SB 188** was presented by Representative Jim D. Garner. (Attachment 3)

There were no opponents to **SB 188**.

Hearing was closed on **SB 188**.

The Chair opened discussion and possible final action on **SB 188**.

Representative Dillon made a motion to amend **SB 188** back to its original form by striking the 7 counties listed in lines 23 and 24 of the bill and include all 105 counties, motion seconded by Representative Shore, and motion carried.

Representative Dillon made a motion to pass **SB 188** favorably, as amended, motion seconded by Representative Ray, and motion carried.

Chair advised committee may meet March 24.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00.



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WILLIE MARTIN

COUNTY COURTHOUSE • 525 N. MAIN • SUITE 315 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 • TELEPHONE (316)383-7552

TO: House Transportation Committee
FROM: Willie Martin
DATE: March 20, 1997
RE: Senate Bill 188

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Willie Martin appearing on behalf of the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners. Thank you for providing the time for a hearing on Senate Bill 188.

Senate Bill 188 provides for a fee on transactions processed at satellite tag registration stations. The bill has been heard in Senate Elections and Local Government. There was no testimony presented in opposition to the bill. .

The Sedgwick County Treasurer operates the main office at the Sedgwick County Courthouse and three satellite tag registration offices at strategic locations in the County. These locations process more than 600,000 transactions a year.

In 1988 a \$2.00 fee was placed on transactions processed at sub-stations. This fee has not been increased since it' implementation, , although increased usage of the satellite stations has required additional space, equipment and employees. There is no mandated use of satellite stations. County taxpayers may use satellite stations or the main office to process tag transactions.

The Attorney Generals Office has issued an opinion stating counties do not have authority to implement a fee for sub-station transactions.

In 1995 Sedgwick County provided \$131,814 from the general fund to support the Auto License Fund, In 1996 that increased to \$354,751 due to elimination of the \$2.00 fee for a period of time.

House Transportation
Attachment 1
3-20-97

At the state and local level, elected officials are actively seeking to reduce reliance on the property tax. This reduction is dependent on the use of alternative revenue. There isn't one revenue source which will provide this alternative. It will have to come from many varied revenues including fees. Sub-station fees are a reasonable and logical alternative to property tax.

Authorization of the sub-station fee will allow for continued convenience and time savings for the tax payer.

We respectfully request your consideration and support of Senate Bill 188



KANSAS COUNTY TREASURERS' ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

EILEEN KING
RILEY COUNTY
President

GARY WATSON
TREGO COUNTY
Vice President

LARRY TUCKER
RENO COUNTY
Secretary

KATHY TREMONT
GEARY COUNTY
Treasurer

TO: Chairman Hayzlett and member of House Transportation committee

FROM: Eileen King, President Kansas County Treasurer's Association *EK*

DATE: March 20, 1997

RE: SB 188

Chairman Hayzlett and members of the committee. I am Eileen King, Riley County Treasurer and President of Kansas County Treasurers' Association. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on SB188.

It has always been the philosophy and goal of County Treasurers to provide the highest level of service to our citizens. In doing so, it is imperative that adequate funding is available to continue providing that service for the motor vehicle operation.

The Kansas County Treasurers' Association supports the original concept of SB188, which allowed those counties to meet the need for operating "a satellite registration facility" by assessing additional fees.

Although less than ten counties currently have a satellite or sub-station office, we do believe the decision for assessing the fee should be determined locally and should be optional for all counties. Some of the counties mentioned in the amended bill currently have satellite offices and some do not. Likewise there are some counties that have satellite offices that are not included in this bill such as Leavenworth County. My understanding is that if the bill is passed in its present form, that any other county could then use "home rule" to assess additional fees. Since the language makes the assessing of the fees optional, we would like to see it remain "uniform and equal" by applying to all counties, rather than just a few selected counties.

In conclusion, the Kansas County Treasurers' Association supports SB188 but we would like for it to apply to all counties. Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to stand for any questions.

*House Transportation
Attachment 2
3-20-97*

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EX OFFICIO: KANSAS SENTENCING
COMMISSION

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 188

Mr. Chairman and Members of Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 188.

The Montgomery County Treasurer has been operating two tag offices for at least as many years as I've been alive. She operates one in the Courthouse in Independence and a satellite office in Coffeyville. The people of Coffeyville have been willing to pay a \$2.00 user fee to help offset the expense of the satellite office.

In August of 1996 the Attorney General issued an opinion concerning similar arrangements in Sedgwick County. Attorney General's opinion #96-65. The General concluded " In the absence of statutory authorization, County Treasurers cannot charge an additional \$2.00 fee per motor vehicle registration when registrants used a satellite registration facility."

SB 188 simply provides the statutory authorization to allow these County Treasurers to collect such fees. The public appreciates the convenience of the satellite offices and this bill will help keep them operating.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB ~~188~~¹⁸⁹.

House Transportation
Attachment 3
3-20-97