

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Gerry Ray at 3:00 p.m. on February 12, 2002 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor
Kay Dick, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Proponents

Glen Wiltse, Dir. Sedgewick Co. Code Enforcement
Mike Taylor, City of Wichita
Rep. Don Myers, Dist. #82
Tom Powell, Oaklawn Improvement Secretary Att.
Andree Sisco, Improvement District Secretary
Randy Allen, Kansas Assoc. Of Counties
Dr. Ed Flentje, Hugo Wall School of Urban & Public
Affairs of Wichita University
Don Moler, League of Kansas Municipalities
Mark Tallman, Assistant Exe. Dir./Advocacy Kansas
Assoc. Of School Boards

Others attending: See Attached List

The Chair opened the hearing on:

HB 2727 - concerning improvement districts; relating to the powers and duties of the governing bodies thereof

Rep. Don Myers testified that he has sponsored this statute change to allow Improvement Districts organized under the subject statute and are within five mile distance from an incorporated city to have the ability to adopt resolutions to prevent, abate and remove nuisances on private property within the Improvement District. The Representative went on to say, "the Oaklawn Improvement District has sent many letters to other Improvement Districts in Kansas to solicit their approval". He provided the committee with copies of those returned letters from 12 district that were in support of the proposed change. (Attachment #1)

Glen Wiltse, Director of Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, offered Sedgwick County's support to Rep. Myers on **HB 2727**. He explained the procedure that has to be taken to enforce the county codes. If an attempt is not made to comply then citations are written. Once the citation is written it begins the court process. Mr. Wiltse stated that this ties up not only time but cost money as well. He emphasized that they currently have cases that have been in court over 3 years and the property owners are still not in compliance. (Attachment #2)

Mike Taylor, representing the City of Wichita, gave testimony in support of **HB 2727**. He pointed out that this bill is designed to help the citizens of Oaklawn, an improvement district located on the southern edge of the City of Wichita. The residents of Oaklawn Improvement District are taking a renewed interest in their community. They want to make it a better place for themselves and their families to live. Mr. Taylor went on to say, that giving the improvement district the power to abate nuisances and charge the cost of the cleanup work to the property owners, will give the governing board of the improvement district a needed tool to deal with absentee property owners and others who don't keep their lawns mowed, their houses and businesses in shape or allow junk cars and other debris to litter the area. (Attachment #3)

Tom Powell, attorney with Hinkle Elkouri Law Firm LLC, representing Oaklawn Improvement District for the purposes of testifying in favor of **HB 2727**, explained that Oaklawn is governed by a 3 member board that is elected by the electors of the community. This board and community are dedicated to improving the quality of life in Oaklawn. With the removal of the 5-mile limit from the Improvement

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT at on February 12, 2002 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

District Act they will add another tool that can be used to improve this quality of life for their community. (Attachment #4)

Andree Simonsen Sisco, Secretary and 18 year resident of the Oaklawn Improvement District offered testimony in favor of **HB 2727**. She indicated that the community is moving forward with many projects to clean up the area so they have a safer, cleaner and more productive place to live. She informed the committee that Oaklawn Improvement District started in the early 50's as a sewer improvement district. A 260 - acre tract southeast of Wichita. The 2000 census showed population of 3,135 with housing units of 1,179. 1,056 are occupied, and of those 549 were renter homes. "When renters move they leave unwanted items behind." She continued to say that some property owners live out of state and are unaware that the renters have even left, let alone the mess left on the street for up to months at a time. This is both sanitary and a safety hazard for the children. She emphasized that community volunteer cleanups have been on going each year, at the expense of the volunteers, since 1996. "It would be easier if we could clean properties as we go and charge it back to the property owners. This way the property owners will stop abusing the clean up system." She made reference to the letters from residents, businesses and other important people that live within Oaklawn Improvement District boundaries that she had brought for the committee to read. (Attachment # 5)

The proponents responded to questions asked by the committee.

There were no opponents to **HB 2727**.

The Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2727**.

The hearing opened on:

HB 2337 - an act creating the Kansas advisory council on intergovernmental relations; prescribing the powers and duties thereof

Randy Allen, Exe. Director; Kansas Association of Counties, strongly supports **HB 2337**, (re)instituting the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR). He stated that specifically, there needs to be a continuous process of studying services provided by all levels of government; the possibility of improving the organizational structure and operational efficiency; and the revenue requirements of the State and all units of local government. (Attachment #6)

Dr. H. Edward Flentje, Hugo Wall School of Urban & Public Affairs of Wichita University, testified on **HB 2337**. He stated that he is a longtime student of state-local relations and familiar with the work of advisory bodies in other states and nationally, as well as of the Kansas council created in 1969 and abolished in 1975. He believes an official forum for on-going study and recommendations on intergovernmental relations in Kansas makes sense and recommend the committee to pass the bill forward. He did suggest amendments that he felt would increase likelihood of success. (Attachment #7)

Don Moler, League of Kansas Municipalities, appeared before the committee in support of **HB 2337**. He testified that the League of Kansas Municipalities and Kansas Association of Counties believes that this bill represents a step in the direction of better intergovernmental relations and the improvement of policy making where they would have linkages between state and local government. The council would identify and study issues of interest and importance to local government in Kansas as well as the State of Kansas and help identify policy initiatives and directions which would allow for a closer communication and work within and between the governments of Kansas. (Attachment #8)

Questions were answered by various conferees that were asked by committee members.

The Chair pointed out that there was *written only* testimony from Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards, in support of **HB 2337**. (Attachment #9) And *written only* testimony from Ashley Sherard, Government Relations Manager, expressing Johnson County Commission's support for reestablishing the Kansas Advisory Council. (Attachment #10)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT at on February 12, 2002 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

The Chair recognized that there was no opponents and closed the hearing on **HB 2337**.

Action on HB 2781 - library funds

Representative Peterson made a motion to pass **HB 2781** out of committee favorably.

Representative Storm Seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed. **HB 2781** passed out of committee favorably.

The Chair made announcements of the a tentative agenda for the next committee meeting on Thursday, February 14, 2002.

The meeting was adjourned.

HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: Feb. 12, 2002

| NAME | REPRESENTING |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| GLEN WILTSE | SEDGWICK COUNTY |
| Don Seifert | City of Olathe |
| Chris Wilson | KS Building Industry Assn |
| Erik Sartorius | City of Overland Park |
| MIKE BILLINGER | KAC |
| Larry M Davis | KAC |
| Andrea Swanson Sisco | Oaklawn Improvement District |
| Dorinda Ann | Oaklawn Mo for 47 years |
| Barbara Stapleton | Oaklawn Neighborhood Assoc. |
| Adnan Brown | Oaklawn Imp. Dist. |
| Daught Pitts | Oaklawn Improvement District |
| Robert P. Robinson | |
| Colleen Robinson | Asbury United Meth. Women, P.O., KS |
| Alicia Henckson | The Topeka Capital - Journal |
| Zip Schopf | Division of the Budget |
| Erica Greene | Boeing |
| Maura Fleethy | Ks. Assoc. of Counties |
| Ed Fleethy | Wichita State U |
| Randall Allen | KS. Association of Counties |

DON MYERS
REPRESENTATIVE, 82ND DISTRICT
SEDGWICK COUNTY
613 BRIARWOOD
DERBY, KANSAS 67037
(316) 788-0014 HOME

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 182-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
(785) 296-7695



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
VICE-CHAIR: ENVIRONMENT
MEMBER: TOURISM
UTILITIES
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL
RESOURCES BUDGET

House Local Government Committee
Testimony regarding HB 2727

February 12, 2002

I have sponsored this statute change to allow Improvement Districts organized under the subject statute and are within a five mile distance from an incorporated city to have the ability to adopt resolutions to prevent, abate and remove nuisances on private property within the Improvement District.

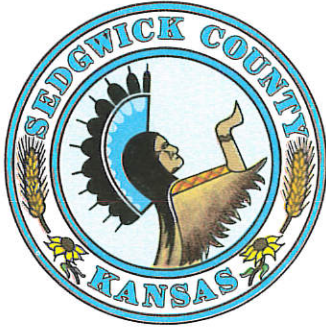
Presently Improvement Districts that are over the 5 mile distance from an incorporated city may adopt such a resolution but not those that are with in five miles.

The Oaklawn Improvement has sent many letters to other Improvement Districts in Kansas to solicit their approval. I have provided the committee with copies of those return letters from 12 districts that support the proposed change to the statute.

Members of the Board of Directors and the Attorney for the Oaklawn Improvement District are present to testify in favor of this change.

I thank you for agreeing to hear HB2727 and request that it be passed on favorably.

Don Myers
District 82



DEPARTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT
Sedgwick County, Kansas

1144 South Seneca
Wichita, Kansas 67213
Phone: (316) 383-7951
1-800-527-CODE
FAX: (316) 383-7502

Glen Wiltse, C.B.O., C.B.I.
Director

February 11, 2002

TO: Chair Ray and Committee Members

RE: House Bill 2727

I am offering Sedgwick Countys support to Representative Myers on House Bill 2727. My name is Glen Wiltse and I am the Director of Sedgwick County Code Enforcment. Currently Sedgwick County Code Enforcement is the enforcement agency in the Oaklawn Improvement District. During the last 4 months of 2001 we had approximately 55 complaints on trash, inoperable vehicles, etcetera. The typical case involves sending two violation notices. If an attempt is not made to comply then citations are written. Once the citation is written it begins the court process. We currently have cases that have been in court over 3 years and are not in compliance. A court case is very time consuming.

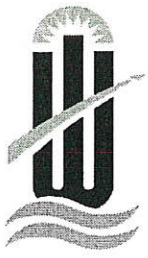
Oaklawn Improvement District needs the authority to operate under its own abatement authority.

We are requesting that you support Representative Myers and approve House Bill 2727.

Sincerely,

Glen Wiltse
Director of Sedgwick County Code Enforcement

GW;sb



CITY OF
WICHITA

TESTIMONY

City of Wichita
Mike Taylor, Government Relations Director
455 N Main, Wichita, KS. 67202
Phone: 316.268.4351 Fax: 316.268.4519
Taylor_m@ci.wichita.ks.us

House Bill 2727

Powers and Duties of Improvement Districts

House Local Government Committee
February 12, 2002

The City of Wichita supports House Bill 2727. The bill is designed to help the citizens of Oaklawn, an improvement district located on the southern edge of the City of Wichita. The residents of Oaklawn are taking a renewed interest in their community. They want to make it a better place for themselves and their families to live.

Giving the improvement district the power to abate nuisances and charge the cleanup work to the property owner will give the governing board of the improvement district a needed tool to deal with absentee property owners and others who don't keep their lawns mowed, their houses and businesses in shape or allow junk cars and other debris to litter the area.

The City of Wichita has launched a major initiative called "Don't Trash Wichita," a community wide effort to reduce litter, keep the streets cleaner and eliminate code violations. The desire of Oaklawn residents to also cleanup their community, is very compatible with the "Don't Trash Wichita" initiative.

I don't know how many other improvement districts across the state may benefit from this legislation, but it will certainly help the citizens of Oaklawn and as the area's closest neighbor, the City of Wichita supports the bill and the results it can help the residents of Oaklawn achieve.

HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

02/12/02

Attachment 3

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 12, 2002

Honorable Gerry Ray
Chair, Local Government Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

My name is Tom Powell. I am an attorney with the Wichita Law Firm of Hinkle Elkouri Law Firm LLC. I am representing the Oaklawn Improvement District for purposes of testifying in favor of HB 2727. The Oaklawn Improvement District is an improvement district located southeast of Wichita and to the west of Boeing. It is governed by a 3 member board that is elected by the electors of Oaklawn. The Oaklawn Improvement District is located within a few blocks of the city limits of the City of Wichita.

HB 2727 is a bill that amends the Improvement District Act. At the present time improvement districts that are located 5-miles or more from an incorporated city have the authority to abate nuisances, remove grass, weeds and other vegetation, prohibit the run at large of domestic animals, adopt resolutions for the preservation of the peace and order and to adopt ordinances to assess unpaid utility service bills against the property receiving the service. HB 2727 amends the Improvement District Act to remove the 5-mile requirement. If HB 2727 is passed any improvement district including the Oaklawn Improvement District will have the authority to abate nuisances, remove grass, weeds, other vegetation, etc.

The Oaklawn Improvement District Board and the community of Oaklawn are dedicated to improving the quality of life in Oaklawn. In the last few years many great things have been happening in Oaklawn. A community center was build, community policing was established, a wall was constructed on 47th Street the main street through Oaklawn. The removal of the 5-mile limit from the Improvement District Act will add another tool that can be used to improve the quality of life in Oaklawn. Andree Sisco, the Oaklawn Board secretary will present testimony that better describes what the passage of HB 2727 will mean in Oaklawn. At this point I will be glad to answer any questions you have before Andree presents her testimony. Thank you for your time.



Tom Powell

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

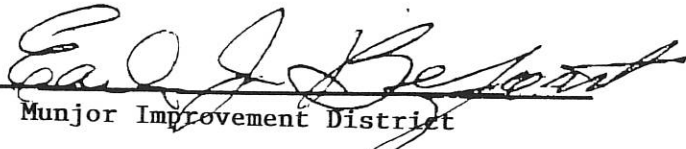
RE: Support for Legislation

Dear Oaklawn Improvement District Board of Directors:

This is sent to let you know that our improvement district supports the legislation that we understand will be sponsored by the Oaklawn Improvement District to amend K.S.A. 19-2765(15)(b). Specifically, we support the amendment of this statute to delete the requirement that improvement districts must be located at least 5 miles or more from an incorporated city before the improvement district has authority to abate nuisances. The basis of our support of this statute is that the quality of life in our improvement district could be improved if we had the authority to abate public nuisances from our improvement district.

Please feel free to use this letter in sponsoring the amendment that will allow improvement districts located closer than 5 miles to an incorporated city to abate nuisances.

Sincerely,


Munjor Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

RE: Support for Legislation

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Sincerely,

 Duane F. Huber
Big Creek Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

RE: Support for Legislation

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Sincerely,

Kellie Dillon-Seibez
Secretary - Big Creek Improvement District
Hayes, KS 67601

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216


RE: Support for Legislation

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Sincerely,



Lake Waucoma Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

RE: Support for Legislation

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Sincerely,

John W. Harless
Lake Waltanna Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

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Sincerely,



Larry D. Schroeman
Lore Walters Improvement Dist.

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

RE: Support for Legislation

Dear Oaklawn Improvement District Board of Directors:

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Sincerely,

Dana Beth 7/16/01
FURLEY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
PRESIDENT

Crestview Country Club Improvement District
801 N. Springdale Drive
Wichita, KS 67230-1510
733-0946; 733-9854 facsimile

July 10, 2001

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, KS 67216

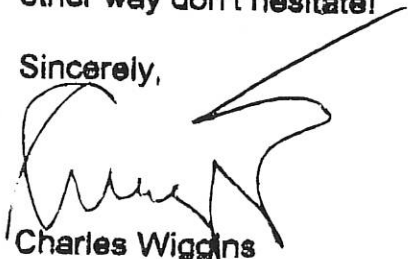
RE: Support for Legislation

Dear Sir:

At our regular quarterly meeting on July 9, 2001 the board of our improvement district voted unanimously to support your efforts to amend K. S. A. 19-2765(15)(b) to delete the requirement that improvement districts must be located at least 5 miles or more from an incorporated city before the improvement district has the authority to abate nuisances.

We appreciate you letting us know about this matter and if we can help in any other way don't hesitate!

Sincerely,


Charles Wiggins
President

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

RE: Support for Legislation

Dear Oaklawn Improvement District Board of Directors:

This is sent to let you know that our improvement district supports the legislation that we understand will be sponsored by the Oaklawn Improvement District to amend K.S.A. 19-2765(15)(b). Specifically, we support the amendment of this statute to delete the requirement that improvement districts must be located at least 5 miles or more from an incorporated city before the improvement district has authority to abate nuisances. The basis of our support of this statute is that the quality of life in our improvement district could be improved if we had the authority to abate public nuisances from our improvement district.

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Sincerely,

P. W. Sutton

Anna L. Milligan

6/23/01

Sunview Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

RE: Support for Legislation

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Sincerely,

Lane Co Improvement Dist
Reece W. Roemer Pres.

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216


RE: Support for Legislation


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Sincerely,





Lakeshore Estates Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

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Sincerely,


Lakewood Hills Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

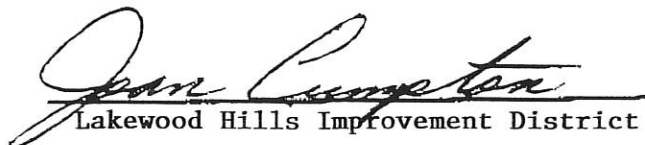
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Lakewood Hills Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

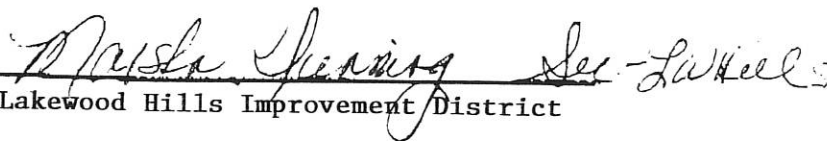
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Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

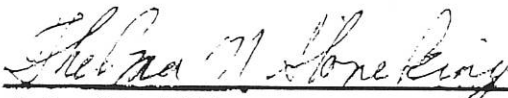
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Sincerely,



Lakeside Village Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

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Dear Oaklawn Improvement District Board of Directors:

This is sent to let you know that our improvement district supports the legislation that we understand will be sponsored by the Oaklawn Improvement District to amend K.S.A. 19-2765(15)(b). Specifically, we support the amendment of this statute to delete the requirement that improvement districts must be located at least 5 miles or more from an incorporated city before the improvement district has authority to abate nuisances. The basis of our support of this statute is that the quality of life in our improvement district could be improved if we had the authority to abate public nuisances from our improvement district.

Please feel free to use this letter in sponsoring the amendment that will allow improvement districts located closer than 5 miles to an incorporated city to abate nuisances.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Tavis
Lakeside Village Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216


RE: Support for Legislation

Dear Oaklawn Improvement District Board of Directors:

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Lakeside Village Improvement District

Board of Directors
Oaklawn Improvement District
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216


RE: Support for Legislation

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Please feel free to use this letter in sponsoring the amendment that will allow improvement districts located closer than 5 miles to an incorporated city to abate nuisances.

Sincerely,


East Shore Improvement District

Marion County
Park & Lake
Community



Marion County Improvement District No. 2

P.O. Box 219 • Marion, Kansas 66861
County Clerk: 316/382-2185

August 22, 2001

To the Oaklawn Improvement District Board of Directors:

The Marion County Improvement District #2 supports the legislation sponsored by the Oaklawn Improvement District to amend K.S.A. 19-2765(15)(b). Specifically, we support the amendment of this statute to delete the requirement that improvement districts must be located at least 5 miles or more from an incorporated city before the improvement district has the authority to abate nuisances.

Dan Crumrine

Dan Crumrine, President

Frances Smalley

Frances Smalley, Treasurer

August 22 2001

Date

Dwight Beckham, Sr.

Dwight Beckham, Sr., Secretary

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 12, 2002

Honorable Gerry Ray
Chair, Local Government Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

My name is Andree Simonsen Sisco and I am Secretary of the Oaklawn Improvement District. I am here to testify in favor of HB 2727 because: As a long time resident of Oaklawn Improvement District of more than 18 years, I have seen our community come together. We are moving forward with many project to clean up our area so that we have a safer, clean and more productive community.

By you passing HB 2727 we as an Improvement District will be able to continue with making it a cleaner place to live. Oaklawn Improvement District started in the early 50's as a sewer improvement district. A 260 - acre tract southeast of Wichita, Kansas. The census data for 2000 showed population of 3,135 with housing units being 1,179. Of the 1,179 houses 1,056 were occupied, of those 549 were renter homes. When renters move out they leave their unwanted items behind. Some owners of the property live out of state and are unaware that the renters have left behind a mess leaving these items on the street side for up to months at a time. This is both unclean and a safety hazard for our children.

Oaklawn Improvement District along with Sedgwick County and many community volunteers held a clean up in 1996 where we went in and cleaned up more than 116 properties. In 1997, 1998 and 1999 clean ups were held. In 2000 we held another large clean up with the Oakview Neighborhood Association, Sedgwick County, Sedgwick County Community Policing and a number of volunteers that started off to be a weekend project that ended up taking up two weeks to complete. In 2001 during Neighbor Works Week, Oakview Neighborhood Association, Community Housing Services along with Sedgwick County Community Policing and Sedgwick County did another clean up. Cleaning up is a on going thing. If we could get people to understand that, it would be easier. I think by cleaning properties as we go and charging it back to the property owners, they will understand better. Here are photos of properties now that I would say are waiting for our once a year clean up. Making unsafe properties. I believe that if we charge the property owners they will stop abusing the clean up system. Keeping the area clean all year round, making it a safer, cleaner and more productive community.

I would like to offer these letters from resident, business and other important people that live within Oaklawn Improvement District boundaries. I understand that we live in a busy world, it is impossible that we all come and offer explanation of why we are in favor of this bill. However we would like you our representatives of local government to know that this is an important bill to help us improve the quality of life in our community, thank you for your support of **HB 2727**.



Andree Simonsen Sisco
Oaklawn Improvement District Secretary
4426 Hemlock Court
Wichita, Kansas 67216

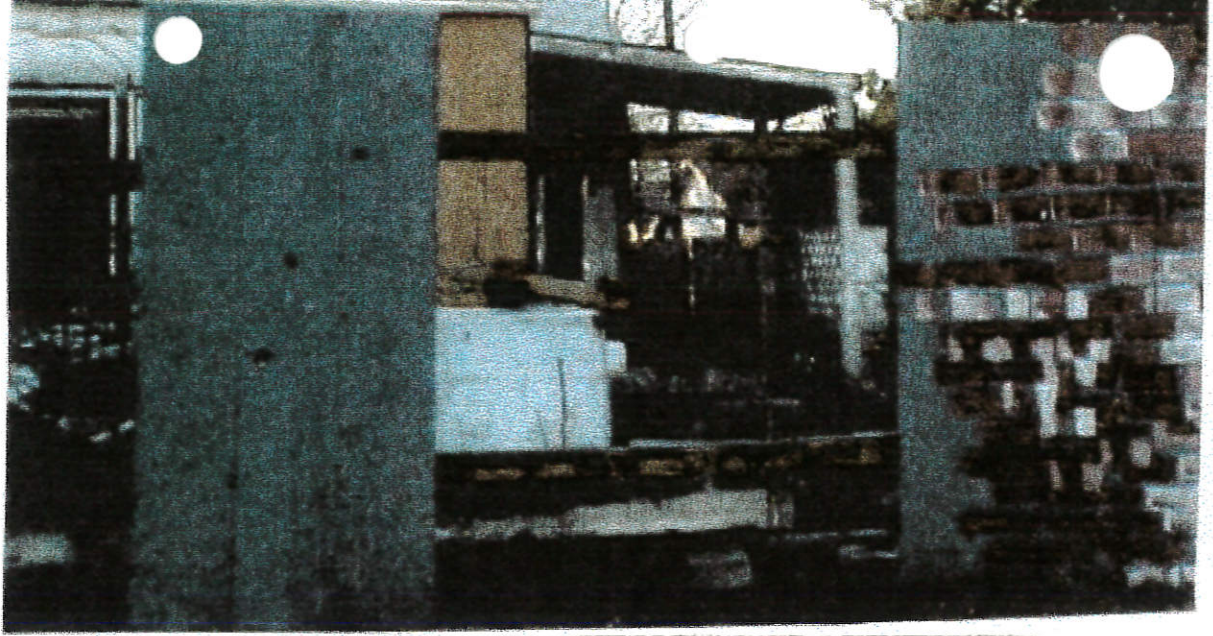


Photo feature in Derby Daily Reporter, 2001



Same property one year later.
Would you want your child playing close to this property? What safety hazard is she going to be exposed to on her way to/from school?

Are they
waiting for
the once a
year
clean up?



This is common
to see a sofa
sitting by the
side of the
street.



The car that is sitting up on jacks is not in a fenced in yard. The red chair and other items along with the car have been there more than a month or two.

The car port, well would you like to park your car there?



PLEASE PASS HB 2727

PLEASE PASS HB 2727

PLEASE PASS HB 2727

PLEASE PASS HB 2727



This was taken sitting at a T- in the road it is not fenced in it is close to the school. What kind of Pets do you think are living in these forgotten trailers?



This house I would say is waiting for Clean up then we will see it sitting on the streets.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 12, 2002

**Honorable Gerry Ray
Chair, Local Government Committee
State Capital Building
Topeka, Kansas**

My name is Beatrice Foss better know to my friends and neighborhood as Aunt Bea. I am writing in favor of HB 2727. I have lived in Oaklawn at 4949 Cedardale Ave. for 44 years. I have watched many children grow up in this community and I believe that with a cleaner community we will have stronger children. By you supporting HB 2727 Oaklawn Improvement District, which is with in 5 miles of Wichita would be able to go in and literally clean up a property. I am a walker and love to walk in my community. As I walk down the street I see many things. I see empty lots that are not being taking care of after a tornado came thru our community in 1991. I see house that had a firer in it over 5 years ago that is still left unattended. I see trash in front of houses that do not have trash service because the renter's have left town. I see cars that have been wrecked sitting on the side of the road you would think that I am talking about a large city, however I am not I am talking about a community that is trying hard to clean up and make a difference. I believer it can make a difference with your help. I have worked a number of clean up's in my community. No I am not on the street picking like other volunteers, I am the volunteer that is at the senior center waiting to feed the many volunteers that come in for food and water. We are making a small difference, with local government support the Oaklawn Improvement District can look at making a big, long lasting change in our community.

I was asked to service on Sedgwick Country Community Development Nuisance Task force. It was great to service my community this way, however the Country is very large with lots of open space it is hard to get a person that has 10 acres to see what it is like to have only a small place with lots of house around you. After all that's why people live in the country to have lots of room, well I live in the country inside of an Improvement District with lots of houses all around me. Lots of people think that we are part of the city of Wichita, because we are so close they do not know we are in the country. Oaklawn Improvement District is the larges district in Sedgwick Country as far as number of people per square space. We are asking you to help make it a cleaner and safer place to live. Please support HB 2727.

Beatrice Foss



Honorable Gerry Ray
Chair, Local Government Committee
State Capital Building
Topeka, Kansas

February 12, 2002

My name is Cina Buehler and I live at 4983 Cederdale Ave. I have lived in Oaklawn for over 10 years. I am writing in favor of HB 2727. I live in this nice two bedroom with my two dogs.



I have see our community move forward with many different things. I think that passing HB 2727 will help Oaklawn Improvement District take needed action to help remove what is on the next page from my view as well as others in our community.

I use to like sitting out in my yard and watching the cars go by talking with people that walk down the street, now well I let the dogs out quick and go back in the house.

In April of 2001 the people that lived in this house moved out. The next thing I knew there were boards on the windows and it just gets worst every month.



When house sit empty they lose their sole like a person with out hope.
That is how I feel somedays a person without hope you could help
return that hope by helping pass HB 2727 so that the Imporvement District
could start working on cleaning up houseing like this in Oaklawn.

Thank you.

Cina Buehler

Cina Buehler

DEER LAKE ESTATES HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

14911 Black Oak Ct. Wichita, Ks 67230

President Jim Costlow
Vice-President Jim West
Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Costlow
Asst Secretary/Treasurer Sherrie Pryor
Board of Directors: Tim Brock
Tom Pryor
Wanda Squib
Wanda West
Bob Williams

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 12, 2002

Honorable Gerry Ray
Chair, Local Government Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

My name is Jim Costlow; I am president of Deer Lake Estates Homeowner's Association. I am in favor of HB2727 because I believe this would allow Oaklawn Improvement District to correct many of the problems we have with tall grass and trash piled by homes in an otherwise nice residential area.

Most of the complaints that the Deer Lake Estates Board of Directors are asked to help resolve are about tall grass, inoperable vehicles and junk piled in trailers or by the homes. So, on behalf of the Homeowner's Association, I support this bill which would allow Oaklawn Improvement District (which is within five miles of Wichita) to act upon these violations. Present statue does not allow this because of the five-mile limitation to an incorporated city.

Your favorable consideration of HB2727 will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jim Costlow
President, Deer Lake
Estates Homeowner's Association

Community
Housing
Services



Wichita/
Sedgwick
County

February 11, 2002

Honorable Gerry Ray
Chair, Local Government Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir,

My name is June Bailey, Executive Director of Community Housing Services Wichita/Sedgwick County. I am sending this letter of support for Oaklawn Improvement District (OID) in regards to Bill 2727. Community Housing Services has worked for several years with OID and the Oakview Neighborhood Association on revitalization and community building. This Bill would allow the OID to better improve the community in which they represent. Thank you for considering this Bill, it means a lot to a small Improvement District that is not able to move ahead in the area of health and safety issues because of other legislation.

Sincerely,

June Bailey
June Bailey, Executive Director
Community Housing Services

4520 E. 13th Street
Wichita, KS 67208
316-685-2656
Fax: 316-685-2811

P. 02

316/685-2811



5-10

FEB-11-02 04:00P

Helms Rental Properties
PO Box 661
Derby, Ks. 67037
Ph. 316-788-4422

January 31,2002

Dear Committee Members,

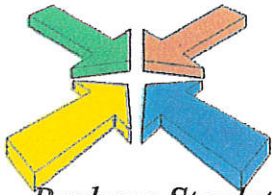
Helms Rental Properties owns and manages several rental properties in the Oaklawn community. There are and have been many occasions when nearby properties to our rentals have been acknowledged to be nuisances because of unmowed yards, worn and damaged furniture thrown into the yards, and old inoperable vehicles in yards.

Therefore, Helms Rental Properties support HR Bill 2727, which will provide a course of action for the Oaklawn Improvement District to act upon these Sedgwick County violations. Present state statutes do not provide the necessary stipulations to provide the good people of Oaklawn to clean up their community.

Thank you for your consideration in approving this bill.

Sincerely,


Owner



Oakview Neighborhood Association

*Barbara Stapleton
President*

*Jean Brown
Vice President*

*Shirley Crosby
Treasurer*

*Dorothy Farley
Secretary*

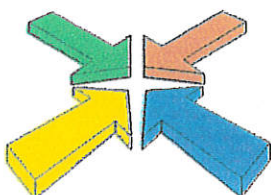
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 12, 2002

*Honorable Gerry Ray
Chair, Local Government Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas*

My name is Barbara Stapleton and I am President of the Oakview Neighborhood Association and a homeowner in the Oaklawn- Sunview area. I am in favor of HB2727 because I care about the community in which I live. I have always cared about my home and the impression that it's appearance had on my neighborhood, and as a leader in my community now it is even more important to me. Every year we have at least two clean-ups in which we get workers to help us. We hope to help our friends and neighbors to pick up in their yards, we furnish trucks, workers, free dump, food and drinks for one weekend and all we ask of them is when the workers get to their house is to come out and help with their stuff, 8 out of 10 won't even be seen.

Bringing Neighbors Together



Oakview Neighborhood Association

We always have plenty of volunteers with trucks, appliance dollies, they furnish their own gas, but within a few weeks when you go pass the house you worked so hard on there is a sofa or a bed that they have hauled out to the curb and left, it will still be there at the clean up. I am enclosing some photos of last years clean up. It was planned for one weekend and wound up being almost two weeks long. This bill HB2727 will help us keep our community looking nice and clean. It is a nice community when clean as you can tell from the photos. We are working so hard to improve our image and this HB2727 will help so much. Most of our landlords are at fault also.

Sincerely,

Barbara Stapleton

President, Oakview Neighborhood Association

Brining Neighbors Together



We hauled 13 loads this full or more with this truck, we had 1 more truck this size, 3-3/4 ton pick-ups, 1-1 ton pick-up, 2 regular pick-ups with trailers and side-rails. They all made between 6 - 14 trips to landfill.

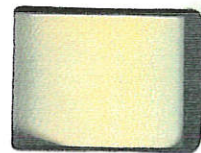


We made about 10 trips to the landfill on the above truck with nothing but washers, dryer, Hot water heater, dishwasher, air conditioning units, and Ice Boxes.

This was at two houses
and the trash at the one
house was the whole length
of the drive-way from the
curb to to the back of the
house



IT took this truck
3 loads to get everything
and the owner of these
houses never offered to
help. The people working
are volunteers.





This is the way our community looks after clean-up. IT is very lovely



Cottage Grove

4801 CEDARDALE AVENUE
WICHITA, KANSAS 67216
(316) 524-4251

February 6, 2002

Committee Secretary
Gerry Ray

Dear Mr. Ray:

We own and manage about 290 single family rental homes in Oaklawn. We are in complete support of House Bill 2727.

We applaud the efforts of our community activists such as Andrea Sisco. People caring enough about their own neighborhood to do something to make it a better place for their family and friends. In Oaklawn, we are blessed with a large number of people who want to see our old neighborhood improve.

I believe Bill 2727 will be instrumental in reaching our goals.

Sincerely,



Rick Wayland, President

RW/lg


Shirley Crosby
4977 Tierra
Wichita, Kansas
67216
scrosby@derby.k12.ks.us

Dear Committee Member,

As a resident of the Oaklawn Improvement District I am in favor of bill # 2727. As a homeowner it has been Frustrating to participate in neighborhood clean-ups only to watch the same properties repeatedly fall into neglectful filth and disrepair. Our property values continue to plummet, as authorities have no viable way to enforce codes in the area. I feel this bill will help the neighborhood to insure that one man's trash does not diminish the other man's treasure.

As an employee of USD260, working at Cooper Elementary (also in Oaklawn Improvement District) I am In support of this bill for different reasons. I watch the daily struggle for pride and self-worth in the students of this area. We have wonderful programs to help them with esteem issues at school. But each day as I look at the properties they walk past to get there and again on the way home I wonder what they are learning and how much pride is still left when they get home. Please help us to help them. With the passing of this bill we can assure our young community members that people do care, not only for themselves but also for the community they live in.

Respectfully Yours,



Shirley Crosby



Delmar Brown
Treasurer

Dwight Ritter
President

Wichita, KS 67216
FAX 524-3719

Andree Sisco
Secretary

Sherrie Hopkins
District Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 12, 2002

Honorable Gerry Ray
Chair Local Government Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

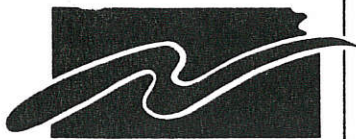
Dear Chairperson and Fellow Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 2727. The Improvement District has worked very hard for approximately ten (10) years to improve the quality of living in the area for our residents. Passage of HB 2727 would give us a very important tool to use in this ever-ongoing battle. Thank You very much for your valuable time in considering this issue.

Sincerely,



Dwight Ritter
President
Oaklawn Improvement District



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

TESTIMONY

concerning HB 2337

Presented by Randy Allen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Counties
February 12, 2002

Chairperson Ray and members of the committee, my name is Randy Allen, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Counties. I am here today to strongly support HB 2337, (re)instituting the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR).

I have served in the position of KAC Executive Director since April, 1996. During this time, I have increasingly perceived a need to personally work harder to bring counties, other units of local governments, and the State of Kansas into a closer, more constructive working relationship. In the press of legislative business here in the Capitol, and in the press of daily decisions made at county courthouses across the State, there is a significant need for an ongoing forum and process to thoughtfully and seriously study intergovernmental relations. Specifically, there needs to be a continuous process of studying services provided by all levels of government; the possibility of improving the organizational structure and operational efficiency; and the revenue requirements of the State and all units of local government.

The transition in leadership at the State and local levels seems to be accelerating. No one wants to serve as an elected official for very long, it seems, as there is an unavoidable punishment from the electorate and a huge personal toll. The result of more frequent transitions in leadership is that institutional memory is more difficult to sustain. The context of policy decisions -- even when perfectly clear at the time policy is made -- often blurs over time as successors interpret and reinterpret the intentions of their predecessors.

For these reasons, we suggest that one of the most practical and far-reaching decisions of the 2002 Kansas Legislature would be to establish the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations. We were part of the process in drafting HB 2337, which envisions a KACIR comprised of 15 members. While we stand behind our bill, we are not so attached to every significant detail that we will not welcome suggestions to make the KACIR even stronger and more effective. We thank the Chairperson and committee for considering this legislation, and hope to move it through the legislative process to enactment. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

The Kansas Association of Counties, an instrumentality of member counties under K.S.A. 19-2690, provides legislative representation, educational and technical services and a wide range of informational services to its member counties. Inquiries concerning this testimony should be directed to Randy Allen or Judy Moler by calling (785) 272-2585.

6206 SW 9th Terrace
Topeka, KS 66615
785•272•2585
Fax 785•272•3585
email kac@ink.org

HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

02/12/02

Attachment 6

(1)

Testimony on House Bill 2337

by H. Edward Flentje

Presented to the House Committee on Local Government

February 12, 2002

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on H.B. 2337, a bill that would establish the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations. I am a student of state-local relations and generally familiar with the work of such advisory bodies in other states and nationally, as well as of the Kansas council created in 1969 and abolished in 1975. As a former state official I have followed consideration of legislative proposals such as the one under consideration here today.

I believe an official forum for on-going study and recommendations on intergovernmental relations in Kansas makes sense and recommend the committee pass H.B. 2337 forward. Hundreds of pages of state statutes determine the nature of state-local relations in our state, millions of dollars pass between and among state agencies and local governments each year, and most state agencies and a few thousand local governments are engaged daily in such interaction. Yet, no state official, no executive or legislative office, basically no one, has been assigned authority for examining these complex relationships on an on-going basis and making recommendations for improving relations of state and local governments.

I do suggest amendments that would in my opinion increase the likelihood of success for the Kansas advisory council envisioned in H.B. 2337:

eliminate township & school dist. this limit their scope

First, focus the advisory council on relationships between and among state authorities, cities, and counties. In other words, add language expressing this focus to section 2 and eliminate township and school district appointments to the council in section 1. Ninety-nine percent of intergovernmental relations among general-purpose governments is conducted by cities, counties, and state officials. Help the advisory council succeed by limiting the scope of its assignment.

Second, assign the governor responsibility for designating the chair of the advisory council (see section 1d). This assignment will align the council as an executive agency, enhance continuity, and create more potential for gubernatorial initiative and leadership with respect to the work of the council.

Third, encourage the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Association of Counties to suggest gubernatorial appointees to the council but do not limit the governor's authority to make appointments to the council (ie., strike lines 25 and 26, in section 1).

Fourth, figure out a source of modest but stable financing for the advisory council.

Flentje is director and professor in the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs, Wichita State University.



League of Kansas Municipalities

300 SW 8th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3912
Phone: (785) 354-9565
Fax: (785) 354-4186

To: House Local Government Committee
From: Don Moler, Executive Director
Re: Support for HB 2337
Date: February 12, 2002

First I would like to thank the Committee for allowing the League to appear here today in support of HB 2337. This bill was introduced at the request of the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Association of Counties during the 2001 Legislative Session by this Committee and is an initiative of the League and the KAC. We believe HB 2337 represents a step in the direction of better intergovernmental relations and the improvement of policy making where we have linkages between state and local government. HB 2337 would create the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR). This council would study issues of interest and importance to local government in Kansas as well as the State of Kansas and help to identify policy initiatives and directions which would allow for closer intergovernmental communication and work within and between the governments of Kansas.

It is clear that the reestablishment of the KACIR would provide a forum for allowing the discussion of pertinent topics on a regular and ongoing basis. It could help identify issues that needed to be addressed by the legislature as well as those that need to be addressed at the local level. While the KACIR is not a panacea for fixing everything that needs to be fixed, it takes us a good way down the road towards closer communication between state and local governments. Certainly I would think we would all agree that in these uncertain times, it cannot hurt to allow for greater interaction between state and local government.

As envisioned by the League, those individuals comprising the KACIR would serve without pay and would participate because of their interest in the issues which face local government in Kansas. We feel this is a very low risk approach to allowing greater interaction and communication between and among cities, counties and the state, as well as other entities of local government, and would provide the ability to focus on specific issues, alternatives, and approaches for solving various problems which now face government in Kansas.

The League would urge this Committee to favorably report to HB 2337 as a step in the direction of good public policy and good government in Kansas. We believe it can do no harm and can only provide one more tool in the tool box of better government and services to the public. Thank you for allowing the League to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

02/12/02

Attachment 8

Written Only

KANSAS ASSOCIATION



OF SCHOOL BOARDS



1420 SW Arrowhead Road • Topeka, Kansas 66604-4024
785-273-3600

Testimony on
HB 2337 (Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Council)
Before the
House Committee on Local Government

By

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 12, 2002

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Committee as proponents of HB 2337.

We believe that this proposal for the creation of an advisory council on intergovernmental relations would help identify and promote methods to more effectively coordinate governmental functions. We appreciate that the council would include a school board member.

Creating a formal structure would insure an on-going effort to examine how different levels of government can work together to meet the needs of citizens. In particular, we believe that the long-term health, if not the very survival, of many communities in Kansas will depend on a closer working relationship between schools, municipal governments and state agencies.

Kansas has a strong tradition of local government as well as effective state government. This proposal will help support that tradition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy
Kansas Association of School Boards

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Thank you for your consideration.
Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy
Kansas Association of School Boards



Johnson County, Kansas

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

To: The Honorable Gerry Ray, Chairman
The Honorable Larry Campbell, Vice-Chairman
Members, House Local Government Committee

From: Ashley Sherard, Government Relations Manager

Date: February 12, 2002

Subject: **Support for HB 2337 – Reinstitution of the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR)**

I would like to express the Johnson County Commission's support for reestablishing the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR), as a means to strengthen relationships between government at all levels and to promote more coordinated and efficient delivery of services to Kansas taxpayers.

Government continually strives to become more streamlined and efficient in serving the public, particularly during difficult economic times. Critical to this effort is an understanding of the needs and responsibilities of each level of government in order to avoid redundancies, minimize taxation, and ensure coordinated delivery of services.

KACIR was originally established in 1969 as a neutral body to study the services provided by various levels of government, the relationship between state and local governments, state and local tax structures, and the revenue requirements and fiscal policies of the state and its local units. KACIR was abolished by the legislature in 1975, however, as part of a movement to streamline the executive branch.

The nation is currently in a time of economic uncertainty, and virtually all units of government are experiencing significant revenue shortfalls that are unlikely to be resolved in the short-term. **Reinstitution of the KACIR would help to ensure that Kansas citizens are receiving and continue to receive the most value from government for their tax support.**

For these reasons, the Johnson County Commission supports HB 2337 and urges the committee to recommend the bill favorable for passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

02/12/02

Attachment 10