

State of Kansas  
Senate Chamber

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Richard (Rick) Billinger  
Senator, 40th District

**Committee Assignments**

Chair  
Ways and Means

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I am here to testify as a proponent of Senate Bill 194.

The proposed bill will allow people in immediate surrounding counties to be qualified to sit on hospital boards. Hospital Board members currently must own land in the county where they are on the corresponding hospital board. In counties such as Logan, there are abrupt switches between the surrounding counties; two buildings on the same road can be in different counties. This starkness means that if a hospital board member of Logan County were to purchase a home just on the other side of the road, they must resign from the board because they no longer live in Logan County. A direct example of this is in Logan County where a former hospital board member purchased a house just outside the county line. Even though he owns a firm within Logan, he is no longer able to serve on the hospital board. His presence is still sorely missed; he was a vital board member, and the current members would like him to return. This bill will allow him to return to the voluntary position. Members of the hospital board are all voluntary-receiving no compensation-and finding well-qualified people willing to donate their time can prove challenging. Allowing board members to live outside the hospital board county will also improve their ability to recruit board members.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

  
Senator Rick Billinger