

To: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
From: John Goodyear, General Counsel
Date: February 12, 2025
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2164 – Written Only

I want to thank Chairman Kessler and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2164.

Employee attraction and retention is a universal concern for our member cities. The League supports measures enacted at the state and local level that will help our communities to address the ever-growing and consistent need for good people in important positions. This is especially true in the context of law enforcement. We have a statewide need for qualified law enforcement officers.

The change to current law found in HB 2164 is minor, but it may be helpful to cities as they seek to address their staffing concerns. By allowing an individual to start their training when they are 20, provided they are 21 by the time they finish, we allow individuals to get an early start on their coursework. The effect of this slight allowance is that an individual seeking to start their career in this necessary field can get the training that they need months sooner than they would have otherwise. It is our hope that this legislation will expand the pool of applicants for law enforcement positions – it may not have a large impact, but it will help to chip away at the staffing needs that we see around the state.

The League is grateful for the opportunity to weigh in on HB 2164 and support this legislation as common-sense tool to address staffing shortages. We would ask that the Committee report this bill favorably for passage.