

Coffey County Commissioners



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TESTIMONY

BOARD OF COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HB 2725

An Act concerning retirement and pensions.

House Appropriations Committee

March 17, 2016

OPPONENT

Chairman Ryckman and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

The Board of Commissioners of Coffey County would like to respectfully offer our objections to HB 2725, which was held for hearings in the House Appropriations Committee on March 11.

As we understand the bill, if enacted, limitations would be placed on employee's use of accrual of leave and use of leave in calculating final average salary benefits. Under the bill, leave includes sick, vacation and annual leave.

HB 2725 would only apply to a certain subset of public employees – those employed before 1993, a change in this law would materially impact those who have relied on these benefits and could actually incent longstanding employees to retire in order to maintain previously-earned benefits. Such action would be a tremendous loss of talent and experience for many local units of government.

It is well known that oftentimes it is the benefits that attract and keep good employees when salaries paid by local units of government cannot compete with private sector jobs. Tying the hands of local units of government with legislation such as HB 2725 is an inappropriate intrusion into local government employer/employee relations.

It is also suggested by several municipal organizations that HB 2725 is an unconstitutional act, as it affects employees under contract by taking away a benefit without granting an equal or greater benefit in its place.

For the reasons enumerated in this letter and other concerns shared with the Committee by other individuals and organizations, we respectfully ask the House Appropriations Committee to take no action on HB 2725.

Thank you.

Board of Commissioners of Coffey County

CC: Representative Peggy Mast
Whitney Damron, Lobbyist for Coffey County