



To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

From: Nicole Proulx Aiken, Legal Counsel

Date: March 16, 2015

Re: HB 2237 – Proponent

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today on behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities and its member cities in support of HB 2237. Currently, cities must designate an official newspaper to publish legal notices. This bill would give cities the option of choosing an internet website as an official publication source instead.

The League supports HB 2237 because it has the potential of saving cities, and ultimately tax payers, hundreds to thousands of dollars. The League recently asked cities to provide us information concerning their publication costs. Forty-eight cities responded to our request, which can be found in the attachment to this testimony. Publication costs in 2014 varied widely from \$160.53 in Prairie Village to \$47,375 in Salina. In the end, the average publication cost in 2014 for the 48 cities represented in our data was \$4,738.23. In a time when cities are struggling with their budgets, this bill has the potential to save cities significant money.

In addition, this bill gives cities local control on how they publish legal notices. Over the last few years, the League has heard from several cities that it is becoming more difficult to publish legal notices in a local newspaper. The local newspaper has either gone out of business or reduced the amount of days it publishes, making it much more difficult to publish in a timely manner. At the same time, many citizens are expecting to find the information online on the city's website. On the other hand, other cities have indicated that they want to support their local newspapers and will continue to publish legal notices in the newspaper even if they are able to publish on an internet website. This bill would provide cities with the flexibility to choose the best form of publication for their communities and citizens.

While the League supports this bill, we do have concerns about two sections. Section 1, subsection (d) and Section 2, subsection (d) appear to make this bill null and void. Several statutes, including K.S.A. 12-3007, require cities to publish ordinances in the official city newspaper. These sections may need to be deleted from the bill or other statutes may need to be amended to ensure the intent of this bill is achieved.

Nevertheless, for the reasons state above, the League supports HB 2237.

City	Population	2014	2013	2012
Lorraine	137	\$ 515.32	\$ 542.08	\$ 563.46
Delphos	353	\$ 356.70	\$ 332.10	\$ 436.80
Gypsum	399	\$ 2,311.00	\$ 1,091.00	\$ 552.50
Holyrood	438	\$ 1,064.88	\$ 827.26	\$ 1,646.26
Moran	542	\$ 344.83	\$ 886.00	\$ 597.51
Macksville	545	\$ 711.13	\$ 736.25	\$ 1,050.23
Westmoreland	788	\$ 810.50	\$ 1,153.50	\$ 706.50
Andale	966	\$ 1,300.00	no data	no data
Riley	980	\$ 377.90	\$ 401.87	\$ 910.96
Highland	1,008	\$ 980.30	\$ 1,057.14	no data
Stafford	1,019	\$ 1,500.00	no data	no data
Altamont	1,049	\$ 877.33	\$ 671.95	no data
Nickerson	1,049	\$ 810.96	\$ 1,031.78	\$ 1,885.90
Hoxie	1,195	\$ 1,780.80	\$ 2,465.70	\$ 3,614.30
Kinsley	1,408	\$ 1,502.90	\$ 1,930.30	\$ 3,375.63
Carbondale	1,423	\$ 1,893.45	\$ 391.00	no data
Johnson City	1,462	\$ 442.60	\$ 330.20	\$ 114.60
Smith Center	1,610	\$ 1,583.54	no data	no data
Moundridge	1,753	\$ 2,245.00	\$ 1,372.50	\$ 1,773.75
Syracuse	1,754	\$ 380.88	\$ 357.62	\$ 350.28
Seneca	2,004	\$ 777.50	\$ 969.49	\$ 650.09
Fredonia	2,390	\$ 818.14	\$ 4,454.80	\$ 2,083.53
Neodesha	2,421	\$828.00	\$1,098.50	no data
Hiawatha	3,178	\$ 2,352.18	\$ 4,848.39	\$ 2,974.21
Columbus	3,223	\$ 1,290.00	\$ 1,510.00	\$ 566.00
Marysville	3,295	\$ 1,842.77	\$ 1,274.00	\$ 1,839.50
Lyons	3,737	\$ 10,427.57	\$ 8,769.33	\$ 10,769.84
Scott City	3,889	\$ 3,170.00	\$ 3,670.00	\$ 2,290.00
Hugoton	3,979	\$ 2,191.50	\$ 1,890.00	no data
Osawatomie	4,385	\$ 5,766.41	\$ 5,040.14	\$ 2,985.00
Goodland	4557	\$ 9,582.11	\$ 3,633.09	\$ 8,679.43
Concordia	5,261	\$ 3,162.38	\$ 3,726.40	\$ 3,983.95
Paola	5,630	\$ 1,144.16	\$ 838.81	\$ 3,104.44
Mulvane	6,287	\$ 1,903.40	no data	no data
Roeland Park	6,845	\$ 2,295.00	\$ 1,271.00	\$ 1,904.00
Bonner Springs	7,480	\$ 1,238.00	\$ 1,184.00	\$ 1,748.00
Andover	12,265	\$ 3,876.45	\$ 3,301.56	no data
Gardner	20,473	\$ 6,491.04	\$ 2,877.28	\$ 7,276.64
Liberal	20,956	\$ 3,213.00	\$ 3,312.00	\$ 2,604.00
Prairie Village	21,892	\$ 160.53	\$ 309.58	\$ 653.01
Derby	23,047	\$ 15,909.21	\$ 16,261.13	\$ 13,735.30
Leavenworth	35,891	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 5,600.00	no data
Hutchinson	41,889	\$ 15,294.59	\$ 15,032.63	\$ 19,134.15
Salina	47,846	\$ 47,375.00	no data	no data
Lenexa	50,344	\$ 7,032.79	\$ 13,136.76	no data
Manhattan	56,143	\$ 27,064.80	\$ 23,922.11	\$ 28,560.97
Shawnee	64,323	\$ 7,934.00	\$ 9,160.00	\$ 10,601.00
Overland Park	181,260	\$ 18,804.38	\$ 15,504.15	\$ 20,417.24