



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
ON HB 2237

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a neutral conferee on HB 2237. For years KAC's policy statement advocated for allowing counties to publish on an internet site instead of the newspapers; however, that position never advanced in the legislative arena and weakened our relationship with the press. After the last battle over publications, our association discussed compromise with the Kansas Press Association and adopted the following position:

Publications. We recognize the importance of local newspapers in our communities and their role in notifying citizens of governmental actions, but are concerned with the impact of publication fees on our local budgets. We support compromise legislation with the press to address publication costs.

Nevertheless, we would note that many of our county members would support this bill in order to save money during these tight budgetary times. I have attached a spreadsheet of publication costs we have gathered from our counties. Although the spreadsheet is not complete with all 105 counties, it does give you a view towards the costs across the state.

We understood the introduction of HB 2237 was intended to open the discussion on this issue. We have discussed this matter in a Local Government Subcommittee this session, and we welcome continued dialogue with the House and the parties affected by this legislation towards a meaningful resolution.

One further note with regard to the specific language of HB 2237 – we find the language contained in Section 1(d), Section 2(d) and Section 2(h) to be confusing. Read literally, it appears to undo the intent of the legislation. We believe the committee will need to clarify the language contained in these sections.

I appreciate the opportunity to be here on HB 2237 and will be happy to answer questions.

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County	Annual Amount Spent on Publishing Information in Newspapers (2014)				
Allen	\$15,850.14				
Anderson	\$4,541.00				
Atchison	\$16,706.86				
Barber	\$4,890.00				
Barton	\$38,858.24				
Bourbon	\$10,828.88				
Brown					
Butler	\$65,114.73				
Chase	\$6,054.17				
Chautauqua					
Cherokee					
Cheyenne	\$9,000.00				
Clark	\$5,756.85				
Clay					
Cloud					
Coffey	\$37,982.89				
Comanche					
Cowley	\$27,118.42				
Crawford	\$40,000.00				
Decatur	\$18,064.37				
Dickinson	\$13,838.89				
Doniphan	\$15,598.00				
Douglas	\$53,358.00				
Edwards	\$1,900.00				
Elk	\$5,000.00				
Ellis	\$25,986.17				
Ellsworth	\$10,397.00				
Finney	\$21,670.65				
Ford	\$131.30				
Franklin	\$48,270.39				
Geary	\$52,000.00				
Gove					
Graham	\$9,295.40				
Grant	\$13,480.44				
Gray	\$10,734.96				
Greeley					
Greenwood					
Hamilton	\$3,901.44				
Harper	\$5,000.00				
Harvey	\$19,026.00				
Haskell	\$2,113.20				
Hodgeman	\$6,000.00				
Jackson	\$22,662.00				

Jefferson	\$19,384.26				
Jewell					
Johnson	\$152,853.00				
Kearny					
Kingman					
Kiowa					
Labette	\$33,114.59				
Lane					
Leavenworth	\$12,048.22				
Lincoln					
Linn					
Logan	\$6,500.00				
Lyon	\$24,000.00				
Marion					
Marshall					
McPherson	\$6,400.00				
Meade	\$9,050.00				
Miami	\$37,824.62				
Mitchell	\$7,957.22				
Montgomery					
Morris					
Morton	\$5,914.93				
Nemaha	9,957.63				
Neosho	\$27,328.69				
Ness	\$7,000.00				
Norton					
Osage	\$21,280.00				
Osborne	\$9,267.93				
Ottawa					
Pawnee	\$21,466.13				
Phillips	\$4,500.00				
Pottawatomie	\$22,276.95				
Pratt					
Rawlins					
Reno					
Republic					
Rice	\$17,758.30				
Riley	\$49,440.56				
Rooks	\$17,933.76				
Rush					
Russell	\$8,759.20				
Saline	\$84,712.00				
Scott	\$5,335.35				
Sedgwick	\$125,361.00				
Seward					
Shawnee	\$63,024.00				
Sheridan					

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