

House Local Government Committee

COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

Please use this as a cover letter when submitting testimony.

BILL #: 2235
Date of Testimony/Hearing: 2/19/2015
Name of person testifying: Duane Drees
Agency Represented: Finney County Commission
Phone Number: 620-272-1513
Email: ddrees@cox.net

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- Proponent X
- Neutral
- Opponent

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- Oral & written Testimony
- Written only Testimony X

Please complete cover form and place it on top of the 25 hard copies of testimony. Please deliver testimony to my office (149-s). If you are sending the testimony hard copies by Fed Ex, the delivery address is:

Maureen Stinson
300 SW 10th Ave, Suite 149-S
Topeka, KS 66612-1504
Ph. 785.296.1754

Please send the electronic copy of the testimony as a PDF file and name as: Bill#, Proponent, Opponent or Neutral, Last Name, Agency or Group Name

Sample: HB 2177 Pro Smith ABC Group

Questions ?

Contact – Maureen Stinson ph. 785.296.1754

Email: maureen.stinson@house.ks.gov

February 17, 2015

RE: House Bill 2235

Honorable Chair Huebert and Members of the Local Government Standing Committee:

At the request of the Finney County Commission, I am writing this testimony to express an opinion about House Bill 2235. This bill has is supported by the county commissioners, but not in its current state. We feel that a change in the population requirement could be made to make the bill more desirable to Kansas overall.

According to this bill, only counties with population of 50,000 or more would have the opportunity to ask voters whether they would support having an appointed County Treasurer versus an elected County Treasurer. It is understandable that some people feel that the larger counties may need a different level of County Treasurer than the smaller counties, but all County Treasurers in Kansas are responsible the collection and distribution of citizens' taxes. Therefore, we feel that allowing all counties regardless of size the opportunity to hold an election to decide on the type of County Treasurer that should be in place is the best alternative.

In addition to our request that the bill allow all counties to vote on the County Treasurer, Finney County would like to see legislation that at least places basic standards that all citizens running for the County Treasurer through an election (if elected and not appointed) must meet.

Some reasons for supporting the bill include the following issues:

- If a County Treasurer does not follow Statutes or misappropriates taxpayer monies, the only way to remove this person is be recall which costs taxpayers more money.
- In this day and age, counties need to be run more like corporations that are trusted with taxpayer funds and faith, which is not always the case as evidenced in Barton County.
- As an elected official, the Treasurer is paid with taxpayer dollars but is not required to show up at the office which leaves management of the department up to non-management level individuals.
- In Finney County, a previous County Treasurer died while in office (1988), which allowed the political party the power to appoint someone that ended up being a non-qualified individual that left everyday around 3 pm for their newspaper route. In addition, this person transferred money between banks making payroll unable to meet their obligations that day since the Treasurer didn't know anything about the bank accounts.

These are just a few of the possible reasons that a county of any size might want to have an appointed Treasurer versus an elected one.

Thank you for your time and commitment on the Kansas House of Representatives and for considering our concerns/requests.

Sincerely,



Duane Drees, Commission Chair