



To: House Transportation Committee
From: Linda Kizzire, Sedgwick County Treasurer
Date: February 12, 2015
Re: House Bill 2181

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 2961, Wichita, KS 67201-2961
Personal Property/Real Estate Taxes
Auto License
TEL: 316-660-9110 - FAX: 316-383-7113
www.sedgwickcounty.org

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Transportation Committee:

I am in support of House Bill 2181 which would make changes to Kansas Statute 8-135, 8-139, 8-145, 8-170 and 8-198 to allow additional fees for vehicle title applications collected by county treasurers.

As many of you may know, Sedgwick County currently operates four Motor Vehicle offices. With the operations transfer from the Department of Motor Vehicles to the County Treasurers' offices statewide, our business model continues to adapt to perform an increasing number of duties which were once performed at the state level. In order to cope with the slower processing time of the new software and incomplete or incorrect records which take time to resolve, our wait times for customers have increased, causing us to work later hours and weekends to keep up. I have added four additional positions to meet some of the additional workload, but still need to hire additional staff. With the current fee structure that is not possible since the tag offices are self-funded at the county level. The funds collected in this special fund is appropriated for the use of the county treasurer in paying for necessary help and expenses incidental to the administration of duties for the motor vehicle offices in accordance with the law. I know of many other Treasurers who also plan to hire additional help. We now scan all title documents, correspond with lenders and car dealerships, and approve all title printing for our County's vehicle owners. Titles are currently printed by the Kansas Department of Revenue. Sometime in the future, it is expected that we will print titles at the county level for some, if not all, applicants. All these duties take personnel; require space and special equipment in some instances. I can only conclude that the cost to the County will continue to rise beyond what we are reimbursed from registration charges. The changes to the current title fee would allow the Treasurers to hire additional staff needed to meet current and future demands.

As an elected official, my goal is to provide accurate, efficient service to my constituents. I see this legislation as an opportunity to allow such service to continue uninterrupted even as our work load continues to increase. Please support this change.

Thank you.

Linda Kizzire, Sedgwick County Treasurer