



DOUGLAS COUNTY TREASURER

Paula Gilchrist, Treasurer

1100 Massachusetts
P.O. Box 884
Lawrence, KS 66044-0884

Baldwin Satellite
112 8th Street
Baldwin City Market
8 - 11 a.m., 12 - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday
2nd full week of each month

South Satellite
27th Street & Iowa
Park Plaza Shopping Center
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

West Satellite
6th Street & Lawrence Ave.
Dillon's Store
7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday - Friday

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Testimony on House Bill 2181
Submitted to the House Committee on Transportation
By Paula Gilchrist, Douglas County Treasurer

February 12, 2015

Chairman Proehler and Members of the House Committee on Transportation,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for HB 2181, allowing County Treasurers an increase of \$10 per motor vehicle title to offset added operational expense.

You probably remember the State implementing a motor vehicle computer software upgrade in 2012. Last year's Legislative Post Audit found that the state's 105 county treasurers collectively incurred \$2 to 2.5 million uncompensated expenses as result of the system and procedural changes. A portion of that expense was due to overtime and other staffing demands due to relatively "normal" headaches, glitches and unreliable performance associated with software upgrades. Those expenses were short term and the Department of Revenue graciously provided financial assistance to counties to help cover budget overages.

Around the time the new system came online, treasurers finalized their budgets for the following year. Assuming things would go reasonably well after the system stabilized, our budget kept personnel at prior year levels. We knew that KDOR had cut nearly half their staff to coincide with go-live and the remaining staff was working diligently on files of incomplete title applications. We held the optimistic impression that counties might expect similar staff cuts and efficiencies with the new system. However, the software has not saved us time or money.

Not only were the efficiencies of the new system disappointing, but the Kansas Department of Revenue ended their title approval functions and delegated full responsibility to county treasurers. It was done without open and professional preparation by KDOR, without proper training on how to approve titles,

and without agency support to help us through the transition. What we got were memos and spot checks of our work. The work is now ours, but they've kept the fees.

After two years with the new system and title responsibilities, county treasurers are struggling to pay for personnel and meet customer demand for services. In Douglas County we added a full-time title approval clerk and a part-time employee to pick up phone and mail duties. So, I write to you today in full support of HB 2181, which would increase motor vehicle title fees from \$10 to \$20 to cover the expense of the work entailed. If Kansas were to double the charge for Titles, the fee would still be low when compared to the other forty-nine United States. Allocating that additional ten dollars per title to county treasurers as compensation for their additional responsibility and expense would not only be fair and just, but would stabilize operations and allow us to more adequately meet the demands for service.

In conclusion, we respectfully request this legislation be advanced from this committee for further action.