

Gayla Shields, Miami County Treasurer



TESTIMONY

House Transportation Committee

House Bill No. 2181

February 12, 2015

Representative Proehl, Chairman, and members of the House Transportation Committee, my name is Gayla Shields, Miami County Treasurer. Thank you for considering my written testimony in support of House Bill No. 2181. It is written with the support of the Kansas County Treasurer's Association.

This Amendment changes current legislation and provides statutory basis for the Certificate of Title fee to be increased from the current rate of \$10 to \$20.

As I am sure you will remember clearly, the State of Kansas Department of Revenue implemented new motor vehicle software in May, 2012. With this implementation came a reassignment of duties and responsibilities, one of which is title approving. The responsibility of approving titles was formerly with the Department of Revenue and now is placed with each County Treasurer, respectively. This obligation does not replace any already located with the County Treasurer, but, rather, is in addition to the responsibilities already entrusted to the County Treasurer.

Many County Treasurers had no choice but to increase staff to carry out the new task responsibilities that accompanied the software change; mostly due to the additional title approving responsibility. This, in some cases, also meant purchasing additional equipment to outfit additional work spaces.

I attended the Legislative Post Audit hearing regarding the DMVS implementation. Much discussion took place that day around costs of implementation to counties, fees, and the fact that there was no consideration given to a redistribution of fees in relation to the redistribution of duties and responsibilities. The title fee allocation remains, of the \$10 fee assessed, the county retains \$2 and the remaining \$8 is remitted to the State of Kansas.

I, as the Miami County Treasurer, hired additional staff and the county purchased extra equipment to handle the increased workload. To offset the incurred expense, a \$2.50 facility fee has been instituted for registration business transacted in the County Treasurer's office. This fee is allowed per a 2013 amendment to K. S. A. 8-145d. As you might imagine, this fee has been met with resistance, however, the additional expenses have to be funded. The total expense of hiring and equipment purchases exceeds the current fee revenue by approximately \$27,000.

Research has been done of the title fees assessed in other states. Kansas is well below average with the current fee structure. (My research indicates the Kansas title fee was amended to \$10 during the 2003 Session and has remained since.) The requested increase will not place Kansas in the higher tier of fees being assessed nationwide, but rather mid-stream.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask for your support and passage of this bill, assessing a fee increase and allocating such to be retained by the County Treasurer to accommodate the workload distribution. Kansas County Treasurers continue to strive to provide all Kansans with excellent and impartial customer service, at an affordable cost. If HB 2181 becomes law, allocating an additional \$10 to be retained by the County, I will be in a position to stop charging the facility fee in Miami County. Thank you, again, for allowing me this opportunity and for considering my testimony when reflecting on this bill favorably for passage.