

WABAUNSEE COUNTY TREASURER
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To: House Transportation Committee

From: Linda D. Coon, Wabaunsee County Treasurer
KCTA Vice-President

Date: February 12, 2015

RE: HB2181

Honorable Chairman Proehl and members of the committee:

I thank you for allowing me to submit testimony outlining my reasoning and support of amending K.S.A. 8-135 and K.S.A. 8-145 to increase vehicle title fees.

As a result of additional duties passed on to Kansas County Treasurers through the 2012 implementation of the DMV Modernization Project and budget cuts that have been necessary for the Kansas Department of Revenue, many counties have had difficulties staying within the boundaries of their motor vehicle operating funds.

The DMV Modernization Project has resulted in some unanticipated expenses to counties. One example of this was revealed and stated in the recent Legislative Post Audit for the Department of Revenue: Examining Issues Related to the DMV Modernization Project and is as follows:

Counties have also incurred about \$1 million in additional costs related to new title approval duties. In May 2012, title approval duties were moved from KDOR to the counties.

Even though vehicle title duties have changed, the state law dictating how the title fee is split between the state and counties has not changed.

State law dictates how the \$10 title fee is split between the state and counties.

KDOR officials said there are no plans to pursue a change in this law.

KDOR officials suggested counties could collect a facility fee to help cover any increase in operating costs.

K.S.A 8-145, enacted in 1937, has provided a fund to pay the necessary expenses of motor vehicle operations from the vehicle fees collected by County Treasurers on various vehicle transactions. Some counties have been forced to charge facility fees in addition to the normal transaction fees. Other counties have chosen to absorb the costs by the County Treasurers personally providing most the overtime hours or supplementing motor vehicle operations through their county operating budgets because they did not want to be forced to “penalize” their citizens by charging them to conduct business.

For these reasons, I believe that an increase of titles fees to \$ 20.00 would assist Kansas counties in staying within motor vehicle operating fund limits. Increased motor vehicle processing costs has been one of many unfunded mandates passed down to local government and our county budgets are already stretched to the limit.

Once again, I thank you for your consideration of this bill and, I ask that you vote to approve this change for title fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda D. Coon
Wabaunsee County Treasurer
KCTA Vice-President