STATE OF KANSAS

TOM SLOAN
REPRESENTATIVE, 45TH DISTRICT
DOUGLAS COUNTY

STATE CAPITOL, 452-S
300 SW 10TH AVENUE
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7632
1-800-432-3924

772 HWY 40
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66049-4174
(785) 841-1526
tom.sloan@house.ks.gov

TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
VICE-CHAIRMAN: VISION 2020

MEMBER: AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
TRANSPORTATION

Testimony on HB 2546 – Voluntary Quarterly Property Tax Payments

Vision 2020 Committee
February 8, 2016

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members: HB 2546 represents the recognition of two factors: 1) State support for local governments is static or declining, thereby resulting in pressures to increase property tax rates; and 2) Property tax bills arrive approximately one week before Christmas each year.

While the Legislature and Governor, at the request of groups and individuals, has addressed placing tax rate lids on local governments, on Wednesday we also collectively will explore how to fund higher education capital expenditures from non-SGF sources. Whether those bills actually become law or not, the fundamental issue going forward to state and local governments in an age of declining income tax revenues will be how to fund essential and desired services from fee, property tax, and sales tax revenues.

Any increases in property tax rates or valuations results in higher property tax bills. Most persons employed have their income tax liability withheld each pay period and sent to the Dept. of Revenue. We pay sales taxes at the time of purchase. Currently persons who have mortgages include a proportionate amount in their monthly mortgage payment and the financial institution pays the bill. Each of these payment methods is relatively painless for the individual because the amount paid each transaction or month is relatively small.

For those of us who do not have mortgages, the week before Christmas we receive a large bill that can be paid in one or two payments.