



TESTIMONY OF THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
TO THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
ON SB 245

MARCH 12, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing on SB 245. I appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of the bill.

The Kansas Association of Counties and our affiliate association the Kansas County Highway Association believe that KSA 68-1111 should be repealed as the statute is antiquated and no longer needed to ensure safe bridge designs.

The review of bridge plans by the county engineer and state transportation engineer originated in 1917. At that time there were no licensing requirements for engineers, so essentially anyone with drafting equipment could design a bridge. With no professional licensing of bridge designers, a careful review of the plans was a necessity and this review was assigned to the county engineer and the state transportation engineer. Now bridges must be designed by licensed professional engineers in accordance with national standards.

In 1917 counties were in charge of constructing both state highways and county roads, and counties let state highway projects locally. This explains the need for state review of larger projects, as many of the bridges were located on state highways. Now the counties only bid county projects, and KDOT bids state highway projects; thus, a cross-review of bridge plans serves little purpose.

KSA 68-1105 also requires approval of bridge plans by the county engineer, so having the same requirement in KSA 68-1111 is redundant.

KAC believes SB 245 is no longer necessary to ensure proper bridge design. We ask that you support the legislation.

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