



Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties to the
House Committee on Federal & State Affairs
Proponent on SB 307 (Amusement Ride Act) • March 13, 2018

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 307, which updates 2017's Kansas Amusement Ride Act.¹ The original Act set new permit requirements from the Kansas Department of Labor before operating amusement rides in Kansas.² In addition to insurance requirements, the Amusement Ride Act also imposed inspection requirements.³ SB 307 clarifies the inspection step and would make it easier for municipal employees to become qualified inspectors, which will benefit Kansas counties and cities that provide community fairs. The Senate amended the original bill to include an exemption for municipalities, which KAC supports. This version of SB 307 is a reasonable approach to safeguarding amusement rides, and KAC supports the measure.

In 2017, local officials from across the state expressed concern over the prospect of the new regulations ending the possibility of including amusement rides during county fairs. There was widespread support that Kansas needed new oversight and safeguards, but county officials also wanted to make sure that rides could still be part of the fun. The changes in SB 307 help ensure that the Kansas Amusement Ride Act sets the right balance between protections and permissiveness in relation to ride inspections.

As this committee evaluates the final language for the bill, we ask that you keep municipalities in mind, along with their efforts to provide both community fairs and swimming pools. While owner/operators of amusement rides are the focus of the Act, the final law will have implications for counties, as well.

Respectfully,

Nathan Eberline
Kansas Association of Counties

¹ Sen. Sub. for SB 70 (2017).

² K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 44-1616.

³ *Id.*