



**Johnson County Government
Before the Senate Transportation Committee
In Support of Senate Bill 41
February 1, 2017**

Johnson County, Kansas, along with its regional partner, the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA), provides and manages public transportation and transit planning for the metropolitan region, in cooperation and coordination with the City of Independence, Missouri, the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, and the Kansas City Streetcar Authority.

The KCATA, as a bi-state, regional entity, desires to have uniform policies across the region. In 2014, the Missouri General Assembly passed HB 1371, which, among other things, increased penalties for assaults of mass transit system employees. The provisions of that bill went into effect at the beginning of this year.

SB 41 creates new penalties for assault and battery when the victim is a public transportation employee. For assaults, the penalty would increase from a class C person misdemeanor to a class B misdemeanor. For battery, the penalty would increase from a class B misdemeanor to a class A misdemeanor.

In addition, in both cases of assault and battery, public transportation systems would be able to bar those persons convicted from using public transportation services.

Public transit in Johnson County offers a safe mode of transportation for metropolitan customers. Ensuring that bus operators are sufficiently protected from assault and battery, as outlined in SB 41, would contribute to the continued and ongoing safety of the transit network as a whole. Johnson County respectfully asks for your support.

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