Senate Ways and Means Committee

Testimony in Support of HB 2130

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

John Milburn, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2130 that would make changes to the process for recording state contracts and leases.

As you recall, the Office of Repealer was established in 2011 by executive order with the purpose of identifying those laws, rules and regulations that were cumbersome, onerous or burdensome. The proposal that is before you for your consideration fits that definition.

In 2010, the State of Kansas moved to a new system for financial management, post-implementation an effort was initiated to look at all forms, policies and procedures to make sure they were still appropriate and required by statute or regulation. This proposed legislation is a result of that review effort.

Specifically, HB 2130 would remove the requirements for agencies to acquire cover sheets for certain processes related to contracts and leases that are administered through SMART, the state's financial management system.

The cover sheets that are referenced by statute in this bill for contracts, real estate leases and encumbrance authorization or adjustment are no longer used for the Office of Procurement and Contracts related approvals as they have been discontinued under the SMART system. There was a time before computerization when paper cover sheets with signatures were part of the document trail and were used for data entry of those encumbrances into the financial system. The approvals are still necessary and required but not obtained through the paper cover sheet process any longer.

Passage of this proposal would bring statutes into concert with existing practices within agencies and the state's financial management system.

Thank you for this opportunity and I would be pleased to answer any questions.