

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

STEVE HUEBERT
REPRESENTATIVE, 90TH DISTRICT
619 N. BIRCH
VALLEY CENTER, KS 67147
(316) 755-1943
OFFICE: 149-S STATEHOUSE
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-1754
(800) 432-3924
TTY (785) 296-8430



TOPEKA

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MEMBER: JUDICIARY
STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND REGULATIONS

The Honorable Carolyn McGinn, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Statehouse, Room 545-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairperson McGinn, Vice Chairman Billinger, Ranking member Kelly and Committee Members

SUBJECT: SB 247 by Senate Committee Ways and Means

In 2004, the city of Valley Center created a new cemetery. At that time, they tried to resolve the issue for a group of citizens that were already paying taxes to the Hillside Cemetery in Harvey County. Their attempts were unsuccessful. There have been numerous attempts since then that also failed. In 2016, I received a request to try again.

Cemetery spending data found that Valley Center has spent approximately \$100,000 since opening in 2004. In 2016, the Hillside Cemetery spent over \$100,000 and had approximately \$300,000 in reserve.

HB 2278, which would have ended the double taxation for cemeteries for the impacted parts of Valley Center on December 31st, 2017, passed in the House of Representatives with a vote of 125 – 0. In April of 2017, I discussed this issue with the Valley Center City Council. They supported the bill, but in a spirit of compromise, agreed to a 1-year extension. House leadership worked with me to get this position into a Tax Conference Committee during the veto session, but we were unsuccessful.

In the last week, I have discussed this issue with the Mayor, City Administrator and a majority of the city council of Valley Center.

The consensus was to end the double taxation as soon possible and to discuss the issue again in February. I look forward to working with the Senate and I am willing to discuss this issue with anyone at any time. I stand for questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Huebert".

Representative Steve Huebert
90th District