



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

300 SW 8th Avenue, Suite 300 • Topeka, KS 66603
785-272-2585 • Fax 785-272-3585 • www.kansascounties.org

Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties to the
House Committee on Judiciary
Proponent for HB 2097 • February 6, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2097, regarding the costs of keeping a civil prisoner in a county jail. The legislative history of K.S.A. 19-1909 shows that this section has not been amended since 1963. This means that the rate set in statute (\$1.50) has been in place for more than half a century with no adjustment.

The county jail is not a money making enterprise, but it is fiscally irresponsible to charge an amount so low that it does not cover the cost of housing a person in the facility. Simply put, \$1.50 does not do this.

Charging a rate that is too low would mean that the county must absorb the additional cost within its own budget. Raising the statutory rate to the amount for maintenance of other prisoners is appropriate and necessary to avoid placing an additional financial burden on the county budget.

The Kansas Association of Counties supports amending K.S.A. 19-1909 to allow counties to receive an amount equal to what is provided for maintenance of other county prisoners.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jay Hall'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay Hall

Kansas Association of Counties

