

To: House Transportation Committee

From: Deborah Barnes, Staff Attorney

Date: February 13, 2020

RE: Proponent for HB 2568

I thank Chairman Proehl and the members of the House Committee on Transportation for giving the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2568.

HB 2568 makes it possible for local authorities to set a lower maximum speed limit than the presently authorized 20 miles per hour and adds business districts to the other districts where this can be done. It also provides for local authorities to decrease the maximum speed limit without having to conduct an engineering and traffic investigation, giving cities the same authority that counties and townships already have to do that.

Importantly for our cities, the bill clarifies cities' authority over maximum speed limits in their business districts. Residential and urban districts are already covered. Business districts are defined in the statute at K.S.A. 8-1407, but business districts were not previously included in the provisions in K.S.A. 8-1560 for decreasing speed limits. The League welcomes the addition of this clarification. This has led to unnecessary confusion when this infraction is being charged. While several cities have added business districts to their codes, it would be helpful to have business districts specifically referenced in state law.

Safety on our cities' streets and highways is a high priority for all our members. This legislation gives local authorities, including cities, greater flexibility to decrease maximum speed limits and to set maximum speed limits that match the varying needs within their communities, whether urban, residential, business or school districts.

The League has no position on what the minimum authorized maximum speed should be, as long as it is safe and reasonable.

For these reasons, the League respectfully asks this Committee to pass the bill to the full House for consideration.