

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Chardae Caine, Research Associate

Date: February 20, 2019

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 134 – Written Only

I want to thank Chairman Wilborn and the Committee members for allowing the League to provide testimony in support of SB 134.

Several law enforcement agencies have recently initiated investigations regarding counterfeiting currency. There are several different forms of counterfeiting currency including: color shifting ink, red and blue threads throughout the bill, an image with no watermark, and missing security threads. Law enforcement has recommended businesses check for these warnings before accepting transactions, however, the League and our members recognize this problem needs to be addressed by the State.

The proposed legislation amends the crime of counterfeiting currency to include the use of a computer to make, forge, counterfeit, or alter any note. It also clarifies the crime of counterfeiting notes and currency of \$25,000 or more as a level 7 felony and a level 8 felony for counterfeit currency and notes with a value of less than \$25,000. Through these changes, the Legislature will assist local law enforcement agencies in protecting our Kansas businesses. Some of our member cities have expressed concern regarding the inability to address the crime as technology advancements have occurred. Further, Kansas cities have also experienced drug crimes with counterfeit currency as the fiscal transaction.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the Committee pass SB 134 to the full Senate for consideration.