

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Deborah Barnes, Staff Attorney

Date: March 10, 2020

RE: Proponent for SB 274

I want to thank the Chairman and the members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for giving the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 274.

SB 274 allows for the first-time employment of KPERS retirees over the age of 65 in a covered position by a participating KPERS employer without the participating KPERS employer having to pay additional KPERS contributions. From the perspective of those of our members who are participating KPERS employers, this amendment of K.S.A. 74-4914 would give additional flexibility to properly staff their city halls without having a significant effect on the overall system.

The League does not envisage cities employing large numbers of people in this category. Rather, the amendment could make available people with a needed skill-set to meet short to medium term needs that might exceed the 1000 hour covered position requirement. For example, a city might need to hire an interim city administrator for six months. Often times the only qualified individual able to step in quickly is a KPERS retiree. Being able to employ these experienced individuals without significant budgetary penalties could give some flexibility when coping with succession management or filling positions as interim managers.

For these reasons, the League supports SB 274 and respectfully asks this Committee to pass the bill to the full Senate for consideration.