

To: Chairman Petersen, Chairman, Senate Committee on Transportation
From: Deborah Barnes, Staff Attorney
Date: February 24, 2021
RE: SB 131 Proponent Testimony (Written)

We want to thank Chairman Petersen and Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to provide testimony in support of SB 131.

SB131 would make provisions for funeral processions, establishing how they should conduct themselves on the road, where they would have right of way, and where they would yield right of way.

This legislation would bring consistency and promote public safety by establishing rules for those participating in, or interacting with, funeral processions as drivers or pedestrians. Funeral processions are referenced by two Kansas statutes but not in any detail.

The legislation specifically puts individuals on notice that cities and counties may require prior notice of a funeral procession to be given to the police department or the county and that the individual should check local city ordinances or county resolutions. The League welcomes this provision; many cities have adopted such arrangements under their home rule authority and/or the statutory authority given local authorities under K.S.A. 8-2002 “regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblages on the highways.”

The arrangements need to be workable, and we are neutral as to whether that is the case for the provisions in the bill for vehicles in the procession to be spaced up to 300 feet apart and still have right of way when going through an intersection.

Again, we thank the committee for its attention to the concerns of the cities of Kansas and for allowing the League an opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 131.