



KANSAS COUNTY TREASURERS ASSOCIATION

March 10, 2022

To: Senator Rick Billinger, Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Christine Swaim, KCTA President and Clay County Treasurer

Re: Support of House Bill 2567

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2567 on behalf of the Kansas County Treasurer's Association (KCTA). KCTA is comprised of County Treasurers from each county in the state.

KCTA offers its members educational opportunities through organizational meetings and training. These trainings, overseen by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University, are conducted to enhance the service provided to the citizens. As members of the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers and Finance Officers (NACCTFO) we can receive certification at the national level. Our members have held several positions including President of NACCTFO and being selected for National Outstanding County Treasurer of the Year.

These past few years have presented more than the normal challenges. As County Treasurers we interact with every citizen of the county through tax collection, vehicle registration or driver's license transactions. It is our goal to provide superior customer service while following the many state and federal guidelines and mandates.

Under the current fee structure there are counties that subsidize the motor vehicle operating expenses with ad valorem taxes. Over the years, the State has pushed more work down to County Treasurers. When the motor vehicle system went live, title approvals were reassigned to the county offices instead of the State Department of Revenue. Many county offices also handle interstate and intrastate commercial truck registrations which again reduces the number of registrations that are done at the State office. Counties are also solely responsible for the replacement and repair of computer equipment. As a result of these increased costs, KCTA formed a committee that has worked diligently to develop the best solution for all counties, regardless of size, to reduce the burden on ad valorem taxes as much as possible.

The \$10 flat fee would provide the necessary funds to drastically reduce the ad valorem tax subsidization for motor vehicle operations. An additional benefit of the proposed bill will be consistency across counties and eliminate the facility fee, previously implemented to help struggling offices. This bill will also eliminate the \$4.00 DMV Modernization fee.

Currently, the county fees are embedded in the existing fees. The proposed fee structure provides transparency for the citizens.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request that the committee advance this bill for further action.

Christine Swaim
KCTA President and Clay County Treasurer