



The Kansas District Judges' Association



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WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2541

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. My name is Kim Cudney, and I am the President of the Kansas District Judges Association and Chief Judge of the 12th Judicial District.

On behalf of the KDJA, I wish to offer the Association's support for HB 2541. This bill modifies the distribution of docket fees from the Judicial Branch's docket fee fund to the State General Fund. The effect of this change is to eliminate the dependence by the Judicial Branch upon the variable revenues obtained from docket fees. This practice has resulted in monthly revenue instability in funding for the Judicial Branch which puts at risk the ability of this branch of government to properly serve its users. In turn, the Judicial Branch has been forced to ask the Legislature for replacement funding due to insufficient docket fee revenue.

The provision of judicial services to our citizens and provision of compensation for our employees are core functions of our government. As such, they should be provided for in the State General fund rather than dependent upon fee revenue. The change proposed by this bill will stabilize the funding for the Judicial Branch and allow for predictability in the forecasting of the Branch's ability to provide necessary services to Kansans.

Importantly, it appears that this bill is revenue neutral. It simply transfers revenue from a fee fund to the State General Fund. Thus, it should also simplify the budgeting process for both the Judicial Branch and the Legislature.

In summary, for the reasons noted we ask that this Committee consider this bill favorably.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of KDJA,

Hon. Kim W. Cudney, KDJA President

