

To: Senate Transportation Committee
From: Deborah Barnes, Staff Attorney
Date: February 23, 2021

RE: SB 100 – Proponent

I want to thank Chairman Petersen and the members of the Committee for giving the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 100.

The League's support of SB 100 stems primarily from the change the bill would make to K.S.A. 8-2110(c). Specifically, this section of the bill would serve to lessen the burden of reinstatement fees on individuals seeking to get their driver's license back. Current law requires that the court assess a reinstatement fee for each charge. SB 100 amends this section to clarify that the reinstatement fee be charged for each case ensuring that each person only has to pay one reinstatement fee.

This provision of the bill was one of the recommendations made by the Municipal Court Ad Hoc Committee in their 2018 report Bonding Practices, Fines, and Fees. The reasoning behind this recommendation is that the levying of reinstatement fees for each charge has been found to perpetuate a cycle of violations rather than increase compliance. It is not uncommon for a person to come before the court with multiple charges of driving on a suspended license. By increasing the burden of reinstatement, the current law has, at times, resulted in further violations rather than compliance. Limiting the reinstatement fees will serve to better allow people to exit the cycle of violations.

The League of Kansas Municipalities appreciates the work of the Criminal Justice Reform Commission in making these recommendations. We are supportive of the change to reinstatement fees and are not opposed to the other changes made by SB 100. The League respectfully asks the committee to recommend the bill favorably to the full Senate for its consideration.