

March 16, 2022

To: Kansas Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Joe Grisolano, Crawford County Treasurer

Subject: HB 2567

Chairman Billinger and Committee members:

I am providing written testimony to support HB 2567 on behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association. This legislation originated from a small group of County Treasurers, the Department of Revenue, and legislators from the Transportation Committees of both the House and Senate. This group met to develop an understanding of County Motor Vehicle operations and deal with stagnant revenues and rising costs of performing Motor Vehicle work for Kansans. The group determined the need to simplify the complex fee structure and make it more transparent.

Under current law, the fee structure is complicated, difficult to explain, and not transparent. HB 2567 removes all hidden fees from the statutes and replaces them with one \$10.00 flat fee the county retains to support Motor Vehicle services. Prior to the amendment in the House that removed the \$4.00 Modernization fee, the average increase for all vehicle transactions was just \$1.64. This legislation eliminates all satellite office and facility fees some counties charge, with no fee differences from county to county. All fees would be the same statewide and every customer would see the amount the county keeps on their receipt.

The Titling and Registration of vehicles in Kansas is actually a function of the state. County Treasurers act as agents of the state to provide these valuable services for all Kansans. Fees counties retain for these services should cover all costs to provide them. However, due to stagnant revenues and rising costs, the fees retained no longer cover all costs. Currently, virtually every county receives county tax levy support to cover some Motor Vehicle expenses. If HB 2567 becomes law, it would greatly decrease or totally eliminate the property tax support.

County Treasurers overwhelmingly support this flat, simplified, and transparent fee concept. In conclusion, I ask for you to support HB 2567. This flat fee bill is easy to explain, contains no hidden fees, and provides entirely transparent revenue to support county Motor Vehicle operations. Thank you for your consideration.