

January 31, 2012

The Honorable Roger Reitz, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Local Government  
Statehouse, Room 223-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Reitz:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 329 by Senate Committee on Local Government

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 329 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law prohibits the state or any other political subdivision from undertaking projects that encroach, damage or destroy a historic property included in the national or state register of historic places until the state historic preservation officer has been given notice and had time to review and comment on the proposed project. SB 329 would allow the governing body of any city following a public hearing to adopt an ordinance exempting itself from such a review if the city finds that it would be detrimental to the economic development of the city. The city would then be allowed to adopt its own set of standards to assure the integrity of historic property included in the national or state register of historic places.

According to the State Historical Society, passage of SB 329 would have a negligible fiscal effect on the agency. It is not expected that many cities would adopt their own standards concerning historic properties, and the employee of the Historical Society who works on the investigations and reviews would still have state reviews to complete for those cities who do not adopt their own standards. The employee would also continue to conduct reviews required by the federal government, as well as assist with other programs within the Cultural Resource Division.

The League of Kansas Municipalities states that passage of SB 329 could increase tax revenues to Kansas cities that choose to use it. The League states that the bill would permit unproductive property to be converted to productive property, which would increase its value and the property tax base. It could also permit the removal of blighted property to the benefit of surrounding property which could enhance the salability of the surrounding property or make it more attractive to investors. Because it is impossible to determine how many cities would

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choose to adopt their own standards concerning historic properties, the League is unable to estimate the fiscal effect of passage of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA  
Director of the Budget

cc: Debbie White, Historical Society  
Larry Baer, League of Kansas Municipalities