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SENATE CHAMBER

DAVID B. HALEY
SENATOR
DISTRICT 4
WYANDOTTE COUNTY

BEFORE THE SENATE ASSESSMENT & TAXATION COMMITTEE

Senator Caryn Tyson, Chair. Senator Vigil Peck, Vice-Chair. Senator G. Thomas Holland, Ranking Minority.
IN SUPPORT OF: SENATE BILL 79. County Voter Option Enacting EARNINGS Tax
20 February 2023

Madame Chair and Members of the Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee:

First, please accept our appreciation for hearing this measure. And, in that I haven't been a member of Senate Tax Committee for about 20 years now, I'd like to thank Committee secretary Gauntt, researcher Penner and revisors Kovar-Donahue and Siebers; all, for your patience and assistance here too.

I speak in FAVOR today for your PASSAGE to the Committee of the Whole of Senate Bill 79.

Succinctly, Senate Bill 79 would grant each County authority to enact an earnings tax; or a percentage of any and all income derived in said County to go to the County General fund.

The question as to whether or not to enact the earnings tax would go before the voters of the County and would be resubmitted periodically for its retention or not.

At least fifty (50%) percent of e-tax revenue must be applied to real property tax reduction.

Members, we contend that a majority of any taxpaying electorate within a County should be allowed to vote for or against requiring all income earners, regardless of residency, to make some financial contribution to the solvency and well-being of the place (the County) where the employee earns their income. Although a county-by-county decision, the State requires statutory authority to hold these elections and potentially enact this provision.

Several States (Appendix I), most notably Missouri, have granted such authority for decades and, where E-taxes have been approved (in Missouri, Jackson and St. Louis, the two largest populated Counties), overwhelmingly retained by voters in elections held every decade. By way of direct example of impact, I represent Wyandotte County (Kansas City) whose residents comprise less than thirty (30%) percent of the County's current workforce. Approximately seventy (70%) percent of my County's "daily income-deriving" workforce are mere visitors whom, though we host the livelihood, generate little revenue back to the County.

It is approximated that, if SB 79 is approved by each of you here in this Committee and the Legislature concurs, should the voters of Wyandotte County adopt an Earnings tax, the revenue generated would approach fifty (50,000,000.) million a year; and, accordingly, reduce the spiraling real property tax rate by two-thirds (2/3).

Madame Chair, I earnestly urge you work SB 79 and respectfully request consideration and favor by each of member of the Committee. Thank you again for this time and I am pleased to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully Submitted,

- David Haley (Wyandotte. 4th)
- Senator / Kansas