



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

715 SW 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612
785-272-2585 • www.kansascounties.org

House Judiciary Committee
February 3, 2025
HB 2134

Kansas Association of Counties
Opponent Testimony

Chairwoman Humphries and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer opponent testimony on HB 2134, which would prohibit charging fees for electronic records, as well as artificially limiting the fees charged for staff time.

The Kansas Association of Counties and its members strongly support open government. KAC and its members are also strongly in support of fiscal responsibility.

For most open records requests, expenses are either nominal or non-existent. Many requests can be filled very quickly with negligible staff time dedicated to providing the records. In more complex cases, however, the volume of records requested, as well as the nature of the records requested requires additional time.

For instance, a record that contains the name of a confidential informant or undercover police officer would need to be redacted or withheld entirely. While the lowest available staff member may be able to obtain that record, they may not know that the names need to be redacted before providing them to the public. Staff time would be required to ensure that investigations are not compromised, or confidential information is not made public.

In the same way, personally identifiable information would need to be removed from records prior to turning them over. Exceptions to the open records act exist to protect this information. Denying staff time to utilize these exceptions essentially passes that bill on to property taxpayers who are paying for that staff time.

For these reasons, KAC would oppose HB 2134 and would ask that the committee not advance this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jay Hall
Deputy Director and General Counsel
Kansas Association of Counties
hall@kansascounties.org
(785)272-2585