

Senate Judiciary Committee March 12, 2025 SB 70

Kansas Association of Counties Neutral Testimony – Written Only

Chairwoman Humphries and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer neutral testimony on SB 70, which would establish a statutory standard for reasonable fees for electronic records, as well as allowing small deviations in time for executive sessions. The bill would also make changes in reporting requirements for violations of open government laws.

The Kansas Association of Counties, along with a contingent of other stakeholders, negotiated on HB 2134, which also deals with the Kansas Open Records Act, earlier in the session. HB 2134 passed the House 123-0. That bill has now advanced to the Senate, where the Senate Judiciary committee has recommended that it be passed with an amendment. The Senate amendment would allow the requestor to request an itemized statement of costs. HB 2134 as amended has not yet had action on the Senate floor.

Rather than advancing SB 70, we would encourage the committee to instead let the work done on HB 2134 stand. This will avoid confusion with having two different KORA bills. Another option is to simply mirror the changes in HB 2134 in SB 70 to avoid the potential for such confusion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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