



# CITY OF TOPEKA

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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
From: Amanda Stanley, City of Topeka  
Date: February 3, 2025  
Re: Neutral Written Testimony for SB 70

Chairwoman Warren and esteemed members of the Committee,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral written testimony on Senate Bill 70.

The City of Topeka carefully reviews all legislation related to the Kansas Open Records Act and the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Our city handles thousands of records requests each year, which require careful vetting to ensure compliance with legal requirements and to protect sensitive information, particularly in high-profile cases. Additionally, we are committed to safeguarding the privacy of our employees and citizens, utilizing discretionary exemptions when appropriate and necessary. This thorough review is critical to ensure the proper handling of records.

As the volume and complexity of record requests increase, along with the growing prevalence of electronic records, the time required to search for and produce these records has become significant. Our network engineer, who is responsible for this task, must divert attention from other essential duties to process these requests. It is crucial that the City be allowed to charge for the staff time spent on searching for and producing records, in order to balance this important responsibility with other city needs.

On the proposed changes to the Kansas Open Records Act, the City supports the addition of the word "estimated" before the time and place at which an open meeting will resume. This adjustment is important for providing the public with clear and realistic expectations regarding the resumption of meetings. In practice, it is often challenging to resume a meeting exactly within the specified time frame, particularly when meetings run late. The inclusion of "estimated" allows for the flexibility necessary while ensuring the public is informed. The standard should focus on whether the governing body provided a sufficiently specific notice of the time frame for the meeting's resumption.

Provided that no additional changes are made, the City of Topeka supports Senate Bill 70 in its current form.

Thank you for your consideration.