



TREASURER'S OFFICE

Shilo Heger
County Treasurer

110 Courthouse Plaza
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-0108
Phone: 785-537-6320
Fax: 785-537-6326
E-mail: sheger@rileycountyks.gov
Website: www.rileycountyks.gov

February 11, 2025

To: Senator Mike Petersen, Chair of Senate Transportation

From: Shilo Heger, Riley County Treasurer/Legislative Chair Kansas County Treasurers Association

RE: Support of Senate Bill 119

Senator Peterson and members of Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to offer my testimony in support of Senate Bill 119. County treasurers work as an agent of the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) providing state-mandated services of titling and registering vehicles. The fees the county is allowed to retain for providing these services no longer covers the cost of operating the motor vehicle department and these shortfalls are being subsidized by ad valorem tax dollars.

Some of the shortfalls can be attributed to additional work the county treasurers were given after the implementation of the MOVRS title and registration system, however, high inflation in recent years is also a contributing factor. The fees the county receives for motor vehicle services are based on the number of transactions the county performs. In most counties registration numbers remain flat, so they do not see a significant increase in revenues. Using data received from the county treasurers the estimated loss across the state is over \$13 million.

The county treasurers have explored many options to increase the revenue needed to fund the motor vehicle operations without a fee increase to the customer. The proposed legislation accomplishes this goal by reallocating the current fees instead of adding any additional fees. A vehicle registration currently costs the customer \$30 or \$40 based on the weight of the vehicle and a title application is \$10. In current statute the county receives \$.75 of each registration and the state receives \$29.25 or \$39.25. The county receives \$2 of each title and the state and highway patrol receives \$8. The proposed legislation would allocate an additional \$5 for each vehicle registration for a total of \$5.75 and would allocate an additional \$1.50 for each title application for a total of \$3.50. The proposed reallocation does not make every county whole but does provide adequate funding for over 70% of the counties.

The Kansas County Treasurers Association has worked for the past 6 years to get legislation passed to provide funding for the motor vehicle operations. Counties should not be expected to cover the costs of this state-mandated function. Without an increase in funding, we anticipate some counties may no longer help fund the motor vehicle operations with tax dollars. This could lead to cuts in services and customer dissatisfaction. I respectfully ask for the committee's support of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.