



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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Senate Transportation Committee
February 11, 2025
SB 119

Kansas Association of Counties
Proponent Testimony

Chairman Petersen and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer proponent testimony in support of SB 119, which would change the way that motor vehicle registration fees are allocated to the state and county without increasing fees on individuals.

Reducing property taxes remains a priority for Kansas counties. One way to do that is by reducing the reliance on property tax funding for various services, allowing the fees to instead pay for those services.

Counties are responsible for vehicle registration. Since 2012, counties have been responsible for both title and registration work. Meanwhile, the state has shifted much of its work in this area to county staff. The fee split between the state and counties has remained the same since 2006, despite the shift in workload. This has resulted in counties supplementing the vehicle registration function with county general fund money derived from property taxes. This results in higher property taxes for county taxpayers.

SB 119 would adjust these fees, shifting more of the fee to the county, where the work is being performed without increasing the fees for individuals. Again, this would not result in an increase in fees for individuals registering their vehicles. Instead, the fees they currently pay would be distributed differently, with the county retaining a larger portion to reflect how the workload is divided.

The Kansas Department of Revenue has also agreed that this legislation is necessary, testifying in favor of a similar bill in 2023.

For these reasons, KAC would ask that the committee support SB 119 and advance it favorably. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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