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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

February 1, 2012

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Mr. Chairman and Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 2438 today. HB 2438 changes the term of office of elected county treasurers. This bill was requested by the Shawnee County Commissioners to the Shawnee County legislative delegation.

Treasurers are elected in most Kansas counties. Currently, county treasurers are elected in the same year as US Presidential elections. They serve four-year terms. However, they do not take office until one year after being elected. So under current law, a county treasurer elected in November 2012 would not take office until October 2013. HB 2438 ends the term of current elected county treasurers on the second Monday in January 2013, as other officials elected in November 2012. Going forward the term of office would align with other elected county officials.

While we have not been able to determine why this office differs from other elected county offices, we believe it is tied to a time when the treasurers' books were kept manually. A case could have been made that it would take some time to finish year-end business and hand off the books to another officer. However, with today's technology and electronic accounting systems, a year lag in taking office is not warranted.

We appreciate your consideration and ask for approval of HB 2483.

Annie Kuether, Chair