

## **Powers of Certain Redevelopment Authorities; SB 185**

**SB 185** revises the powers of Johnson and Labette counties pertaining to certain redevelopment districts and authorities.

The bill allows the board of county commissioners in either county that has established a redevelopment district that includes property located within a federal enclave to authorize the installation, maintenance, and operation of utilities to serve the redevelopment district. Utilities include water, sewer, electricity, gas, telecommunications, and rail services.

If a redevelopment authority board has been established by the county to oversee the redevelopment district, the abilities described above may be delegated by the county to the redevelopment authority board. Any franchise for utilities authorized by the bill must be adopted by resolution; may not be exclusively granted to any person, firm, or corporation; and shall be limited in time to no more than 20 years. The bill allows for franchise fees up to 6.0 percent of a customer's gross charges for utility service.

The bill also authorizes a redevelopment authority in either county to incur debt and issue bonds to pay for the costs of developing and improving the utilities and other properties within the redevelopment district. A redevelopment authority may secure debt using property it owns in the district. It is permissible to use lease-purchase agreements to acquire and finance property. The maximum maturity of issued bonds may not exceed 20 years. Debt incurred is solely the responsibility of the redevelopment authority to repay.