

SB 338 Opponent Testimony - in person
Alternate local budget process
Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
Dave Trabert, CEO
March 11, 2020



Chairwoman Tyson and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 338, which would allow local units of government to adopt an alternate budget process with extended deadlines.

Testimony provided to the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee indicated SB 338 would give local units of government more time to create their budgets and allow them to utilize information they may not have by the August deadline.

Trey Cocking, Deputy Director of the League of Kansas Municipalities, told me that an employee relations issue is one of the driving forces behind this proposal.

Here's an example that was given. If a planned pay increase included in the budget approved in August isn't fully implemented because circumstances change between August and December, employees think management 'lied' to them. That's certainly unfortunate and unwarranted, but it's not justification for creating an alternate budget process.

Allowing local units of government to have a different budget process within the same county would also lead to taxpayer confusion.

For these reasons, we encourage Committee members to reject SB 338, and we thank you for your consideration.