



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**COUNTIES**

715 SW 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612  
785-272-2585 • [www.kansascounties.org](http://www.kansascounties.org)

Senate Local Government Committee  
February 16, 2021  
SB 153

Kansas Association of Counties  
Neutral Testimony

Chairwoman McGinn and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer testimony on SB 153, which would establish a process by which counties can establish term limits for county commissioners.

Home rule is an important to KAC and its member counties. As such, it is important that counties and their residents (and voters) have a clear say in how their local community is governed.

In January, KAC hosted a series of virtual trainings for new commissioners. Overall, Kansas has over 100 new county commissioners this year, out of about 350 commissioners total. That is a large amount of turnover without having term limits. As with any new job, there is a learning curve for county commissioners. Term limits will almost certainly oust commissioners who are established, making the need for even more in depth training critical for new commissioners.

There is one portion of the bill that KAC believes should be modified if this bill were to move forward. The bill currently establishes in section C that a proposition to abolish term limits cannot be presented within four years of the establishment of term limits. There is nothing in the bill, however, about what happens if the ballot measure on term limits fails. If that ballot measure fails, there should be a similar cooling off period as for the establishment of term limits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to the committee. KAC stands ready to answer questions at the appropriate time.

Jay Hall  
Legislative Policy Director and General Counsel  
Kansas Association of Counties  
[hall@kansascounties.org](mailto:hall@kansascounties.org)  
(785)272-2585, Ext. 307