



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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House Local Government Committee
February 7, 2024
HB 2661

Kansas Association of Counties
Proponent Testimony

Chairman Bergquist and members of the Committee:

I apologize for not being able to make it to committee this morning due to other responsibilities, and for submitting this letter of support for HB 2661 after the hearing. However, I do want to issue this letter of support for changing the statutory process for filling vacancies on the county commission that are created by an increase in the number of commissioners.

Counties can increase the number of commissioners in their county by approving a ballot measure. Once that is done, the county is responsible for re-drawing the districts based on the new commission size and holding elections for the new commission size. Commissioners are generally elected in staggered terms so that roughly half of the body is re-elected every two years. However, the current law would have placed some counties in a position to always elect nearly the entire commission in the same election cycle.

HB 2661 addresses this problem by clarifying the statutory language of when those elections will take place so that the commissioner terms remain properly staggered. KAC and its member counties support this change, which will prevent confusion on the local level.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this letter of support for HB 2661, and we encourage the passage of this legislation.

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