

SALINA MUNICIPAL COURT

**Brenda K. Stoss**

Municipal Court Judge

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Date: March 5, 2024

To: Chairman Owens and the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

From: Judge Brenda Stoss

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 318

Chairman Owens and Members of the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 318 as originally introduced, specifically, eliminating the requirement to submit for fingerprints for violations of K.S.A. 8-235, K.S.A. 40-3104, and any municipal ordinances that mirror those statutes. Cases involving drivers cited for driving with an expired license fall under these sections, and this violation is an extremely common reason for an individual to appear in municipal court. The violation itself is not a public safety concern, nor it is one that would be the basis for enhancement of some future charge. Similarly, not having proof of liability insurance is a common basis for a citation in municipal court, and likewise is not based on any public safety concern or a need to establish a basis for future enhancement of a charge.

While some municipal courts are fortunate to have the ability to fingerprint individuals within their own facility, most, including Salina Municipal Court, are not. An individual cited for one of these violations is required to appear in court to take care of the case. It is not like a speeding ticket that can be paid without having to appear in front of a judge. For our court, that means an individual has to make arrangements to be away from their normal daily life, whether it be work, attending school, or caring for their family, to appear before the court on their case. Depending on the local arrangements, that individual may then have to make arrangements at a later time to go to the appropriate facility away from the court to have their fingerprints done. This is an undue burden on citizens, especially in light of the limited value of having the individual fingerprinted for these violations.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 318 as originally introduced, eliminating the requirement for fingerprinting for these violations. I appreciate your consideration.