



NEUTRAL TESTIMONY, SB 164

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for AAA Allied Group

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Senate Transportation Committee

As Governor Brownback reported in his State of the State Address, his administration has worked to restructure and reform state government to be more efficient and more effective. Last fall, his DMV Task Force examined “private and public sector models with the aim to improve service and efficiency while recognizing the significant differences around the state.”

One of those models that emerged from the task force was contracted, public-private partnerships with the DMV. That model has already been tested successfully for reducing or avoiding costs and improving service in Kansas and nineteen other states by local AAA clubs.

We just received the results of a December, 2012 survey of our AAA Kansas members, of which there are over 300,000 now. The survey has a sampling error of only +/-5 percent. When asked, “*In several other states, a variety of Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) services are performed at AAA offices to reduce costs and/or improve service. Would you like to see the State of Kansas provide DMV services to members and non-members at AAA Kansas offices?*” seventy-five percent said, “yes.” Of those, eighty-six percent would like to see vehicle registration renewals offered and eighty-two percent would like to see driver license renewals offered at AAA offices.

Potential contractors, like AAA, are not going to hurt county treasurers, but rather help them and the public through improved service. For example, AAA only has seven offices in Douglas, Johnson, Riley, Sedgwick and Shawnee counties. However, according to the Department of Revenue, of Kansas’ 2,071,224 driver licenses in 2012, 1,119,292, or 54 percent, are in these counties. Utilizing AAA offices for certain DMV services in these higher volume counties, at a minimum, could lessen the load for improving service. The additional office hours afforded by AAA offices, open Mondays and Saturdays when the DMV is closed, would also expand services.

SB 164, as drafted, includes contractors who perform DMV services but only in the event county treasurers have failed in their duties. We think SB 164 could give the state the option to contract for services in such cases where it finds contractors can perform services to assist, reduce the workload or complement county treasurer to improve service, but not as currently drafted. Why should the state DMV be limited or wait until failure by a county treasurer has been reached to contract with others? Certainly no one wants to find that scenario and that is the only option addressed in SB 164.

We think the bill could be enhanced or improved by striking the remaining sentence after “services,” from line 18 through 26 on page six of the bill and adding references to “contractors,” along with current references to “county treasurers” throughout the rest of the bill in Section 2, from lines 27-43 on page six, and line one on page 7.

We offer this as a way of enhancing SB 164 to more broadly support the Department of Motor Vehicles by widening DMV options for alternative service delivery methods to save money and/or improve service through contractors.