

February 9, 2015

The Honorable Steve Huebert, Chairperson
House Committee on Local Government
Statehouse, Room 149-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Huebert:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2237 by House Committee on Local Government

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2237 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law requires the governing body of a city and the board of county commissioners of a county to choose a qualified newspaper as the official publication source. In order for legal notices, advertisements, or publications of any kind to have any force or effect they must be published in that publication. HB 2237 would allow cities and boards of commissioners of counties to use an Internet website as an alternative to a newspaper as the official publication source. If an Internet website is chosen, it must have the following qualifications:

1. It must not be password protected;
2. It must be available to members of the general public;
3. No fee can be charged for accessing the website; and
4. The publication of a city or county legal notice, advertisement, or publication of any kind, must comply with all statutory requirements for official publication, including any requirements for publication in the official city or county newspaper.

According to the League of Kansas Municipalities, cities can expend large amounts on publication fees annually. Thus, passage of HB 2237 has the potential to result in savings for any city in Kansas that would choose to use an Internet website as its publication source. The League indicates that it is not able to determine the number of cities that would choose website publication or the amount that would be saved; however, the League believes it would be significant.

The Kansas Association of Counties states that Kansas counties could expect decreased costs if they were able to move their publications from newspapers to the county website upon

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passage of HB 2237. While the county website might have maintenance costs, the Association indicates that those costs would be minimal in comparison to the costs associated with publishing in newspapers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Melissa Wangemann, KAC
Larry Baer, LKM