

To: House Taxation

From: Trey Cocking, Deputy Director

Date: February 20, 2020

RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2607

Mr. Chairman and Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2607. HB 2607 would allow a county commission to authorize the collection of property tax payments via an installment plan.

The property tax is one of the most hated taxes in the land, and one of the reasons is that a property owner must pay their entire tax for the year with just two payments. We support this bill for three reasons. 1. Local control - it allows a county commission to decide what is right for their county. 2. It maintains the current payment distribution system with the final payment to be paid by May 10th. 3. In addition, the bill is taxpayer friendly.

We would ask that the committee consider limiting the bill to those taxes paid directly by a property owner, and not payments remitted by third party escrow payers. This amendment would limit the number of payers that are making installment payments and limit the risk to taxing entities.

For these reasons, the League asks this Committee to amend and recommend HB 2607 favorably for passage.