

Date: March 21, 2019

To: Senate Transportation

From: Eric B. Smith, Deputy General Counsel

Re: Testimony in support of HB 2125 **WRITTEN ONLY**

I want to thank Chairman Petersen and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities, on behalf of our member cities, to provide written testimony in support of HB 2125.

The League supports law enforcement in all efforts to enforce traffic laws to promote the health and safety of our communities. In general, most drivers who have been stopped for a traffic violation will hand their license to an officer when requested. This allows the officer an opportunity to write a citation in the comfort and safety of their patrol car and not be exposed to the elements and traffic related dangers. HB 2125 simply makes it clear a driver is required to give a police officer their license if requested by the officer.

Currently, under K.S.A. 8-244, a driver is required to “display” their drivers license when requested by an officer. We have been told that in some situations, individuals who do not want to cooperate with officers have used the current language to argue they only have to show the license to the officer and not give the license to the officer. This forces the officer to write any citation using the information from the license by standing outside of the violator’s car exposed to traffic hazards. The League supports HB 2125 as a reasonable change to provide clarity to the current law and help provide additional officer safety.

For these reasons, the League respectfully ask the Committee to pass HB 2125 out favorably to the full Senate.