



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
February 24, 2021
SB 167

Kansas Association of Counties
Neutral Testimony

Chairman Peterson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer neutral testimony on SB 167, which would allow certain vehicles to be designated as authorized emergency vehicles under K.S.A. 8-2010.

The rules governing authorized emergency vehicles are written with police and fire vehicles in mind. This is evident when looking at K.S.A. 8-1506, which defines the rights, duties and liabilities of drivers of emergency vehicles. While police and fire vehicles need the ability to disregard certain traffic regulations in carrying out their duties, that may not necessarily be the case for utility vehicles.

While KAC understands the need for electric and natural gas vehicles to have the ability to park or stand in various places on roadways and in the right of way, as well as the potential need to disregard regulations regarding the direction of movement or turning in a specific direction while carrying out repair functions, there are other actions that emergency vehicles are allowed to undertake that are likely not necessary for these vehicles.

These include:

- proceeding past a red traffic signal or stop sign after slowing, rather than stopping
- exceeding the maximum speed limits
- proceeding through toll booths on roads and bridges without stopping for payment

KAC would ask the committee to consider what additional rights vehicles associated with public utilities may need to carry out their function, and tailor this bill as such, rather than giving additional rights that these vehicles may not utilize or need, particularly without the ability for local oversight on these activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to the committee. KAC stands ready to answer questions at the appropriate time.

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