

Department of Administration Testimony

on

HB 2139

House Financial Institutions Committee
Tuesday, February 12, 2013

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Director of Operations and Public Affairs

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Department of Administration supports HB 2139 and the overall effort to make state government more efficient.

Currently, state warrants (or checks) are cancelled after being unclaimed for one year. Funds are then placed in the Cancelled Warrants Fund, from which payments can be made for up to a four-year period from the original date of cancellation. This sets a five-year limitation on the ability of a taxpayer to claim his/her property.

However, what routinely happens is the Legislature is asked to circumvent the "claims against the state" process to get this money back to the rightful owner.

If cancelled warrants are immediately treated as unclaimed property, there is no limitation on when the funds may be retrieved. Also, State Treasurer Estes and his team do an outstanding job publicizing the Unclaimed Property Fund, which we believe will not only be more effective but should expedite the return of funds from cancelled warrants, as well.

We applaud the efforts of Treasurer Estes and urge the Committee to report this legislation favorably.

Attachment 4
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