



900 SW JACKSON ST., STE 201  
TOPEKA KS 66612-1235

**Ron Estes**  
KANSAS STATE TREASURER

PHONE: 785-296-3171  
FAX: 785-296-7950

**Before the Committee on Financial Institutions**

**Kansas State Treasurer Testimony on HB 2259  
February 12, 2015**

Chairman DeGraaf and members of the Committee, I am Stan Jones, Director of Bond Services for the Office of Kansas State Treasurer Ron Estes. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2259.

The Bond Services Department of the State Treasurer's Office acts as the central registrar of Kansas municipal bonds and serves as the paying agent for Kansas municipal bonds. Additionally, the department is tasked with receiving and compiling information provided by the county clerks once a year to create the Kansas Indebtedness Report. The Indebtedness Report lists the total dollar figure of each type of municipal debt for each of the 105 counties in Kansas. HB 2259 is drafted to provide these county clerks a more realistic time frame to gather and report this information to the State Treasurer's Office.

The reporting of the debt information to the State Treasurer is a two-step process where first the individual clerks of each municipality are required to send the indebtedness for their specific entity to the county clerk by July 5th. The second step of the process is that the county clerk then consolidates that information and reports it to the Bond Services Department by July 15<sup>th</sup>. All of the indebtedness totals are to be reported as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The current deadlines are often difficult for the municipal and county clerks to comply with due to the short time frame prescribed by statute. With the end of the reporting period often coinciding with the municipalities fiscal year end, the municipal clerks struggle to compile all of the current debt balances and report to the county clerk within the 5 day deadline. These same issues are even more complicated for the county clerks as they try to gather the information from the various municipalities in their county, as well as dealing with their ongoing operations and year end procedures, within the twenty-five days allowed by statute.

HB 2259 changes the statutory deadlines to allow more time for the county and municipal clerks to gather and report the indebtedness figures. The municipal clerk's deadline is changed from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> to provide the various municipalities within the county time to gather and report to the county clerk. In addition, it changes the deadline for the county clerk to compile and report the information to the State Treasurer from July 15<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>. These deadline changes provide a more realistic time frame for compliance considering the variety of municipalities within a county, and the end of fiscal year concerns.

Thank you for your time and with that I will stand for any questions you may have.