

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Hon. John E. Barker, Chair
Hon. Charles Macheers, Vice Chairman
Hon. John Carmichael, R.M. Member

March 5, 2015
3:30 p.m.
Room 112-N

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TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 2112

MY BACKGROUND

I have practiced law at the oldest courthouse in Kansas, the Chase County Courthouse in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas for my entire legal career of almost 40 years. I have been a lawyer member trustee of the Chase County Law Library since its establishment. I have served as the chairman of the Chase County Courthouse Preservation Committee for the period when historic courthouse was preserved and restored to national historic preservation standards.

HB 2112 SUPPORT

I support amending K.S.A. 20-2117. My rationale is that utilization of law library funds to improve the visual presentation of evidence and improve legal research capabilities in the courtroom by both the litigants lawyers and the presiding judge. The equipment used to provide these improvements can be the same computer based equipment as used in the law library for legal research.

This provides an economy to scale benefit for both the Court system and the law library.

I have been told that a couple of the larger counties oppose the amendment. I understand that some lawyers may be concerned about the judiciary raiding the law library funds to improve their courtrooms. I propose that the following be the paragraph (f) to solve those concerns:

“(f) Except in Johnson and Sedgwick County the majority of attorney (non judiciary) members of the board of trustees of a county law library established pursuant to this section may authorize upon application by the court signed by a majority of judges of the district, the expenditure of a sums certain by the chief judge of the judicial district to use fees collected pursuant to K.S.A. 20-3126, and amendments thereto, for the purpose of facilitating and enhancing functions of the district court of the county.”

Whatever counties push back on the amendments could be excepted from the provision of the section. The majority of attorney member library trustees could authorize a sum certain of the sums collected for use by court.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles R. Rayl
Attorney at Law