

Senate Transportation Committee

March 12, 2015

Department of Administration

Testimony in Support of SB 245

John Milburn, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 245, that would repeal the statute regarding the requirement for certain bridge construction projects.

As you are aware, the Office of Repealer was established in 2011 by executive order with the purpose of identifying those laws, rules and regulations that were cumbersome, onerous or burdensome. Since its inception, there have been more than 175 statutes proposed for repeal, of which more than 70 had been approved for repeal through the 2014 legislative session. The proposal that is before you for your consideration fits that definition.

This particular item was brought to the Office of Repealer from Norm Bowers of the Kansas Association of Counties in 2014. Mr. Bowers said that the law in question requires review by the Kansas Department of Transportation of plans for all bridge and culvert projects with a cost exceeding \$200,000. The law was enacted in 1917 when there weren't licensed engineers available to design the projects. Currently such projects are designed by licensed engineers either on county staff or hired consulting engineers and thus KDOT review of the projects is no longer necessary.

The Office of Repealer took the suggestion to KDOT and all other appropriate parties to discuss the merit of the repeal. After thorough review, it was deemed to be no longer necessary to have the statute. The bill was filed this session through the Office of Repealer as part of a package of statutes covering a variety of governmental functions.

We ask your support for this legislation to help streamline the process and bring the statutes in line with current practices.

Thank you for this opportunity and I would be pleased to answer any questions.