

To: Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance  
From: Brock Ingmire, Manager of Policy and Research  
Date: March 16, 2017  
Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 205

I want to thank Chairman Longbine and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to offer written testimony in support of SB 205 on behalf of its member cities. The League supports the conceptual idea behind SB 205 as it provides a more inclusive framework for what qualifies as participating service so as to not penalize participating employees for unexpected and extended interruptions in their day-to-day ability to attend and perform their work.

On occurrence, city employees can be caught in a bind where they are injured or for other legitimate reasons are unable to perform the duties of their work and are thus placed on temporary administrative leave or worker's compensation leave in excess of a quarter of the calendar year. When such situations arise for an extended time frame, employees of participating members can be left without the ability to accrue participating service credit at no fault of their own. While cities see such scenarios arise most frequently within their police, fire and emergency services departments, it is not limited to those departments and, on limited occasion, could potentially arise within other departments, such as public works.

The principle behind SB 205 would ensure that employees are not penalized from accruing their participating service credit for legitimate unexpected and extended limited-term absences from their work. For these reasons, we respectfully request the Committee pass SB 205 out of Committee with a recommendation to the full Senate for approval.