February 10, 2017

The Honorable Rick Wilborn, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 541-E
Topeka, Kansas  66612

Dear Senator Wilborn:

SUBJECT:  Fiscal Note for SB 141 by Senate Committee on Judiciary

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 141 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Under current law, municipal judges are authorized to set the amount of an appearance bond by securing a cash payment, securing a responsible individual acting as a surety with the approval of the judge, or the issuance of a guaranteed arrest bond certificate.  SB 141 would amend this law to require the amount to be the same regardless of the method used to secure the bond.  Using the cash method, SB 141 would require a cash deposit in the full amount and securing the bond using a responsible individual would be changed to require a sufficient, solvent surety approved by the judge.  The bill would prohibit a judge from limiting the method of securing a bond to a cash deposit only. Finally, the bill would modify the process of collecting bond forfeitures so that it is in accordance with KSA 22-2807.

The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that SB 141 would increase Judicial Branch expenditures only if the intent of the bill is to transfer the enforcement of bond forfeitures from the municipal court to the district court.  The League of Kansas Municipalities indicates SB 141 would have a fiscal effect on Kansas cities, but an estimate cannot be made.  Any fiscal effect associated with SB 141 is not reflected in The FY 2018 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc:  Ashley Michaelis, Judiciary
     Melissa Wangemann, Association of Counties
     Brock Ingmire, League of Municipalities