



*Jim Howell*  
*Commissioner – Fifth District*  
*Board of County Commissioners*  
*Sedgwick County, Kansas*

March 2, 2022

Proponent Testimony for HB2676

Chairman Thompson and members of the committee,

Thanks for an opportunity to testify today as a proponent on HB2676. This is a priority bill for Sedgwick County and is on our 2022 legislative platform.

This bill modernizes a couple of local budget limitations currently in place. The need for this flexibility was not likely envisioned 35 years ago.

I'm not a technical expert on the accounting side of this need but I can speak as one that struggles on the rollercoaster budget impacts of not allowing these fund categories to be carved out in the budgeting process.

All of us inherently know that for some expensive items it may be advisable to plan more than a year to purchase some things. This law would allow local government to do that for technology because the yearly costs can be very high and span more than a budget cycle. Unlike capital, cash funded high-cost technology needs may require multiple-year budgeting.

There is no cost to the state for this law. We just need legal freedom to do what we all do in our personal lives. It will help smooth out the budget, especially when we are under pressure to do that by SB13 passed in 2020.

Please help us with our budget process and pass HB2676.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Howell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jim Howell  
Commissioner – Fifth District