

The
Garden
City

Telegram

Jan. 31, 2017

Sen. Jacob LaTurner, chairman
Federal and State Affairs Committee
Kansas Senate

Sen. LaTurner:

Please accept this letter as my plea to better serve the people of Kansas through approval of SB 70.

The proposed legislation would tighten requirements for governmental entities to go into executive, or closed, session.

City commissions, school boards and other government bodies always should make a compelling case to privately discuss any business. SB 70 would tighten requirements for calling an executive session, plus require more specific details on what's to be discussed in private.

Governmental bodies no doubt go into executive session and end up discussing matters outside of what's allowed.

Often, that's because elected officials don't understand Kansas Open Meetings Act requirements. SB 70 also would help eliminate misunderstandings when it comes to the decision to go into closed session.

Above all, citizens should be privy to more details when government wants to make a case for operating in secret.

Enhancing transparency and making government more accessible to the people it serves aren't partisan issues. Please keep citizens' right to information about government operations as accessible as possible by approving SB 70.

Thank you for your consideration.



Dena Sattler
Editor-publisher
The Garden City Telegram