



Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas

701 North Seventh Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 573-5311 • info@wycokck.org

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 2002

**Brett Deichler
On behalf of the**

Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

**House Taxation Committee
January 24, 2023**

Good afternoon Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee.

My name is Brett Deichler, and I am the Unified Government Clerk in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. As most of us have come to realize, in today's inflationary economy, the costs of providing public services is continuing to rise. Outside of the escalating costs surrounding general administration, most of the ancillary business requirements (i.e. standard postage) supporting services at the operations level are also increasing.

In stating this, the Unified Government consistently looks to reduce costs while identifying better business practices that drives efficient service to our constituency at-large. And while I certainly understand the reasons for the inception of the original Senate Bill 13 (now codified as 79-2988), I would like to believe that the general costs required to support the business and/or notification process should not become a burden, whether it be financial or through general manpower, for any one agency.

So, it probably comes as no surprise that I stand before you today to convey that the Unified Government would also support a change in language to favorably amend current policies or statutes for the establishment of a perpetual state fund that eliminates the unfunded mandates on certain counties in Kansas. As the county agency, please keep in mind that not only are we absorbing the initial financial costs associated with the front-end notification process, but the Unified Government Clerk is also absorbing the costs associated with providing manpower to create, monitor and report statutory compliance throughout the process. As you can imagine, this portion of the process not only requires a significant commitment in capital, but it also requires a significant commitment in administrative services including collection efforts by the Unified Government at the back-end. Therefore, any reduction in the hourly requirements from our administrative staff (i.e. eliminating the requirement for the Unified Government to subsequently bill other agencies thereafter) would improve our ability to both reduce administrative costs and improve services by reallocating manpower to support other services throughout the calendar year.

In closing, I want to say "Thank You" for the opportunity to present this information today.