

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

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MAJORITY WHIP

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: ETHICS, ELECTIONS &  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEMBER: JUDICIARY  
UTILITIES  
TRANSPORTATION  
INTERSTATE COOPERATION

JOINT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT COMMITTEE

Testimony for SB338 – Assessment and Taxation - March 11, 2020

From the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

To Chairman Tyson and Committee:

SB338 was introduced on January 29<sup>th</sup> and sent to Ethics, Election and Local Government and had a hearing February 11<sup>th</sup>. There were four proponents – League of Municipalities who spoke in favor and three written proponents which included City of Atchison, Kansas Association of Counties and Northeast Johnson County cities. The committee passed it out by voice vote on February 21<sup>st</sup> – moved by Senator Doll and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senator Haley. There were no dissenting votes.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, I made the motion on the Senate Floor to refer to this committee for further review with the possible attachment to SB294 which passed the Senate the day before. Flexibility was a big part of the decision in our Committee and I do see this as a bonus to SB294 if the details could be worked out and incorporated into the tax discussion in the conference committee process. If SB338 could be a tool in helping our local governments at home – then our committee would like to be part of making SB294 and the overall tax plan more accommodating to our people at home.

SB338 would create an alternate budget process for taxing subdivision or municipalities to set an estimated ad valorem amount by August 1<sup>st</sup> but then give them until November 30<sup>th</sup> to submit their final budget. The idea would allow cities to develop more accurate budget estimates by having 3 more months of actual receipts. This would not replace the current process but could be an alternative option.

Thank you for your time.

Senator Elaine Bowers