

To: Senate Transportation Committee
From: Wendi Stark, Legislative Liaison
Date: February 19, 2024
RE: SB 426 - Criminal acts and penalties regarding emergency vehicles
Proponent - Written Only

We want to thank Chairman Petersen and the Committee members for giving the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 426.

SB 426 would increase the traffic infraction from \$75 to \$400 for drivers in violation of the “move over” law for stationary authorized emergency vehicles. In addition, the bill would create a crime (level 6 felony) for any violations resulting in injury or to any person operating an authorized emergency vehicle that is an ambulance, fire department vehicle, or police vehicle and impose a fine of \$1,000. Further, the bill would create a crime (level 4 felony) for any violations resulting in death to any person operating an authorized emergency vehicle that is an ambulance, fire department vehicle, or police vehicle and impose a fine of \$7,500.

We appreciate the need for protection to ensure the safety of ambulance, fire, and police personnel working in emergency situations in often dangerous work. We believe we understand that the main concern is to give better protection to stationary authorized emergency vehicles carrying out their work as defined in the bill.

We appreciate the efforts of the Senate Transportation Committee and Legislature to support the safety of emergency personnel who are working to keep our communities safe and provide necessary services to Kansans. The League of Kansas Municipalities supports SB 426 and asks this Committee to recommend it favorably for passage.