



MEMORANDUM

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TO: Members, Senate Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Scott Frank, Legislative Post Auditor
DATE: February 9, 2017
SUBJECT: Testimony Supporting House Bill 2002

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2002, which was introduced by the Legislative Post Audit Committee and would exempt the Legislative Division of Post Audit from the Department of Administration's Monumental Building Surcharge.

Background Information

The Department of Administration collects the Monumental Building Surcharge from all agencies that lease space. The proceeds from the surcharge are used to maintain the Statehouse, Judicial Center, Cedar Crest, and the Capitol Complex parking lots. The surcharge has been set at \$2.66 per square foot of leased space for fiscal year 2018.

The Legislative Division of Post Audit is the only legislative staff agency that is subject to the surcharge. Because the Legislature's other staff agencies are located in the Statehouse, they do not pay rent and therefore are not charged. On the other hand, our agency leases space in the former bank building at 800 S.W. Jackson in downtown Topeka. This makes us the only legislative agency that pays rent, and as a result, the only one that is subject to the surcharge.

The budget passed by the 2015 Legislature included a proviso that temporarily exempted our office from the surcharge for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. That temporary exemption is set to expire, and the surcharge would total approximately \$16,000 for our agency in fiscal year 2018.

Provisions of House Bill 2002

The Legislative Post Audit Committee introduced House Bill 2002 to permanently exempt the Legislative Division of Post Audit from paying the surcharge. This would bring our office in line with the other legislative staff agencies.