

To: House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

From: John Goodyear, Staff Attorney

Date: February 11, 2020

RE: Support for HB 2547

I want to thank Chairman Jennings and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2547.

The League's support of HB 2547 stems primarily from the change the bill would make to K.S.A. 8-2110(c). Specifically, this bill would serve to lessen the burden of reinstatement fees on individuals seeking to get their driver's license back. Current law requires that the court assess a reinstatement fee for each charge. HB 2547 amends this section to clarify that the reinstatement fee be charged for each case ensuring that each person only have to pay one reinstatement fee.

This provision of the bill was one of the recommendations made by the Municipal Court Ad Hoc Committee in their 2018 report Bonding Practices, Fines, and Fees. The reasoning behind this recommendation is that the levying of reinstatement fees for each charge has been found to perpetuate a cycle of violations rather than increase compliance. It is not uncommon for a person to come before the court with multiple charges of driving on suspended license. By increasing the burden of reinstatement, the current law has, at times, resulted in further violations rather than compliance. Limiting the reinstatement fees will serve to better allow people to crawl out of the cycle.

The League of Kansas Municipalities appreciates the work of the Criminal Justice Reform Commission in making these recommendations. We are supportive of the change to reinstatement fees and are not opposed to the other changes made by HB 2547. The League supports this bill and respectfully ask the committee to recommend the bill favorably to the full House for its consideration.