



# *Testimony*

Unified Government Public Relations  
701 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 620  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director  
913.573.5565    mtaylor@wycokck.org

---

## **Open Records and Minutes SB 98**

**Delivered February 10, 2015  
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee**

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City has concerns with SB 98.

Setting established fees for the time spent researching and creating records is a good idea. It will let both citizens and governments across the state know up front what meeting a cumbersome or time consuming request is likely to cost.

The Unified Government provides records which are readily available or can be easily obtained at no cost. It is more involved requests which require records retrieval from storage or the research and creation of a record which are more difficult and costly. The Unified Government places reams of information on its official website. In fact, the Unified Government has been awarded an A rating by the National Sunshine Coalition for transparency and the depth of information posted.

The Unified Government is very concerned about the portion of the bill which allows the Secretary of State to set the standard and format for minutes taken at meetings of our Unified Government Commission and other public bodies.

The Unified Government Clerk records every meeting and then those recordings are transcribed verbatim for the public and permanent record. We believe this is a more transparent way to keep our public informed about the official actions of their local elected leaders. We also broadcast every meeting of the Unified Government Commission on UGTV, our city government cable channel.