

SENATE BILL No. 274

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-12

9 AN ACT establishing the Kansas scenic and heritage backroads act.

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11 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

12 Section 1. The provisions of sections 1 and 2, and amendments
13 thereto, shall be known as and may be cited as the Kansas scenic and
14 heritage backroads act.

15 Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established a Kansas scenic and heritage
16 backroads program for the promotion of local designated routes which
17 are not part of the state highway system. The program shall include the
18 promotion and enhancement of tourism, while at the same time increas-
19 ing the understanding and appreciation of the state's heritage. The pro-
20 gram shall also show the importance of preserving, protecting and en-
21 hancing the state's scenic, historic and cultural resources.

22 (b) To be designated as a Kansas scenic and heritage backroad such
23 proposed route shall meet the following qualifications:

24 (1) The proposed route shall consist of public county roads with an
25 asphalt, rock or dirt roadway surface, which persons are able to travel
26 driving a passenger car;

27 (2) the route must be clearly defined with a starting and ending point;

28 (3) the route shall have one or more exceptional or distinctive scenic,
29 natural, historical, cultural, archaeological or recreational qualities;

30 (4) there must be documented local support and involvement for the
31 designation;

32 (5) the applicants shall be responsible for creating an appropriate
33 brochure, with a map, of the designated route; and

34 (6) a designated route may include dead-end roads, if such roads have
35 a unique or rewarding experience for the visitor at the end of such road.

36 (c) If the designated route intersects a state or U.S. highway, the
37 secretary of transportation shall provide signage at those intersections
38 indicating the Kansas scenic and heritage backroad.

39 (d) The secretary of transportation shall indicate the Kansas scenic
40 and heritage backroads on the official state transportation map. The sec-
41 retary shall also provide on the department of transportation official web-
42 site, a link to the county website in which the Kansas scenic and heritage
43 backroad is located. In addition, the secretary of the department of com-

1 merce shall provide on the department's travel and tourism official web-
2 site, a link to the county website in which the Kansas scenic and heritage
3 backroad is located.

4 (e) Applications for the designation of a local route as a Kansas scenic
5 and heritage backroad shall be submitted to the secretary of the depart-
6 ment of transportation on a form approved by the secretary.

7 (f) The secretary of transportation may accept and administer gifts
8 and donations to aid in obtaining and installing signs for the Kansas scenic
9 and heritage backroad program.

10 (g) The secretary of transportation may adopt such rules and regu-
11 lations as the secretary deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this
12 act.

13 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
14 publication in the statute book.