

SESSION OF 2004

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 289**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Transportation

**Brief\***

SB 289 creates the Governors of Kansas Hometown Heritage Act and authorizes the placement of signs on the State Highway System indicating post-secondary degree granting schools.

**Definitions - “Qualified Hometown” and “Qualified Governor’s Hometown”.** For purposes of the act the bill defines a “qualified hometown” to mean a city or unincorporated community that is a “governor’s hometown”. A “governor’s hometown” would mean the city or unincorporated community listed in the election records of the Secretary of State as the residence of a successful candidate for governor of the state of Kansas the first time the candidate was elected governor.

The bill would require the Secretary of Transportation to install governor’s hometown signs at appropriate locations near the city limits of a city or the edges of an unincorporated community if:

- ! the governing body of the city or the board of county commissioners for the unincorporated community has adopted a resolution requesting the installation of the signs;
- ! the city or unincorporated community is located on a highway which is part of the State Highway System; and
- ! the Secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for the initial cost of installing the signs and an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement costs of the signs.

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

**Sign content and related provisions.** These provisions would require the Secretary or the Secretary's designee to design the distinctive sign and determine its size, shape, color, and content. Specifically, the signs would contain:

- ! the name of the city or unincorporated community;
- ! the governor's hometown logo;
- ! an indication that the city or unincorporated community is the hometown of one or more governors;
- ! the name of each governor whose hometown is the city or unincorporated community; and
- ! the numerical designation of each governor in the succession of governors and the years each governor served as governor of Kansas.

**Competition for the design of the governor's hometown logo.** These provisions would require the Secretary of Commerce or the Secretary's designee to conduct a competition for the design of the governor's hometown logo. The logo would contain a representation of the dome of the state capitol building. In addition, the Secretary, in organizing the competition, would consult with and cooperate with the Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, the Executive Director of the Kansas Arts Commission, the Executive Director of the Kansas Humanities Council and other agencies, persons, or organizations the Secretary finds appropriate.

**Cities and unincorporated communities not on the State Highway System; provisions for territorial governors.** These provisions would allow the governing body of a city or the board of county commissioners of an unincorporated community not located on a highway which is part of the State Highway System to request a governor's hometown sign from the Secretary of Transportation. The requesting city or unincorporated community would reimburse the Secretary for the cost of the signs and be responsible for the installation, repair, maintenance, or replacement of the signs.

The bill would further allow the governing body of a city or the board of county commissioners of an unincorporated community which was a territorial capital of Kansas to request a territorial governor's sign from the Secretary, subject to conditions in the bill.

The size, shape, color, design, and content of the signs would be distinctive and would be determined by the Secretary. These signs would contain: the name of the city or unincorporated community; an indication that the city or unincorporated community was a territorial capital of Kansas, the name of each territorial governor, the numerical designation of each governor in the succession of governors of Kansas, and the years each governor served as territorial governor of Kansas.

**Signs indicating post-secondary degree granting schools.** These provisions would require the Secretary of Transportation to install signs on the State Highway System informing the public of the exits for post-secondary degree granting schools under the jurisdiction of the Kansas Board of Regents and which are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The signs would not be installed unless a school requests the signs and the Secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for the cost of installing the signs. The Secretary may accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing the exit signs.

**Effective date of the act** The act would take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

## **Background**

Conferees who testified in favor of the bill in its original form, included the bill's sponsor, Representative Schmidt; Chris Bauman, Neodesha Chamber of Commerce; and Paul Bahnmaier, Lecompton Historical Society. Representative Sloan provided written testimony in support of the bill.

David Church, Chief, Bureau of Traffic Engineering, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), presented informational testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee.

There was no opposition to the bill.

The Senate Transportation Committee amendments were proposed by David Church of KDOT and other conferees.

The House Transportation Committee added the amendment pertaining to the signs on the State Highway System that inform the public of post-secondary degree granting schools. The other amendment was requested by the spokesperson of the Kansas Department of Transportation who explained that the agency is only responsible for installing signs on the State Highway System. Thus, a local unit of government may only request a sign from the agency.

An updated fiscal note is pending.