

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 9

As Amended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 9 would strike language in existing law that makes it unlawful to operate a motor vehicle equipped with television-type receiving equipment so located that the equipment is visible from the driver's seat.

Background

Senator Journey testified in support of the bill before the Senate and House Committees. He indicated, among other things, that the purpose of the bill, as introduced, is to make only the operation of the screen while driving, rather than possession, a violation of state law. The Senate amendments pertaining to utility vehicles and commercial motor vehicles were proposed by conferees.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amendment would allow a visual display used to enhance or supplement the driver's view forward, behind, or to the sides of a motor vehicle.

The House Transportation Committee restored the bill to its original form, as introduced.

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, 23 states have a law or regulation which states that the television must not be visible to the driver; 16 states have a law that states that the television cannot be visible to the driver and not located forward of the back of the driver's seat; 12 states have

*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>

no law; and 23 states provide exemptions for vehicle navigational devices.

The bill, as introduced, would not have a fiscal effect.