

SESSION OF 2008

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 689**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Transportation

**Brief\***

SB 689 would amend state law to require drivers, on highways with two lanes of traffic proceeding in the same direction, outside of city limits, to drive their vehicles in the right lane. It also would prohibit drivers of vehicles on highways of three or more lanes of traffic proceeding in the same direction, outside of city limits, from driving in the far left lane.

The above provisions would not apply to authorized emergency vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, and vehicles associated with construction or maintenance work of the Kansas Department of Transportation or the Kansas Turnpike Authority. The bill also would include these additional exceptions:

- When overtaking and passing another vehicle;
- When preparing to make a proper left turn;
- When official traffic-control devices direct otherwise;
- When otherwise required by other provisions of law.

The bill would require a law enforcement officer to issue a warning citation to anyone violating the above provisions after July 1, 2008, but before July 1, 2009.

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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>

## **Background**

Major Mark Bruce, of the Kansas Highway Patrol, appeared as a proponent of this bill, which he said would discourage slower drivers from essentially blocking the flow of traffic. He suggested several exceptions in addition to those in the original bill. Senator Stephen Morris and Ed Klumpp, representing the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police and the Kansas Peace Officers Association, also testified in favor of the bill. No opponents testified before the Committee.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to exempt authorized emergency vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, and vehicles associated with construction or maintenance work of the Kansas Department of Transportation or the Kansas Turnpike Authority and to add these exceptions:

- When overtaking and passing another vehicle;
- When preparing to make a proper left turn;
- When official traffic-control devices direct otherwise;
- When otherwise required by other provisions of law.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget says that the Kansas Highway Patrol stated the bill would have no fiscal effect on agency operations. The fiscal note further indicated that the change in law would have to be communicated to Patrol and other law enforcement officers to ensure enforcement by officers but would not have an effect on staffing.