

SESSION OF 2010

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 480**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Transportation

**Brief\***

SB 480 would amend current law regarding the legibility of vehicle license plates. Under current law, not maintaining a license plate free from foreign materials or not in a condition to be clearly legible is a misdemeanor; the bill would make violation a traffic infraction.

The bill would add to law that a license plate could not be covered with any material, including any clear or opaque plastic-like material, that affects the visibility, reflectivity, or readability of any relevant information displayed on the plate. For the first year after the bill's effective date, the bill would require a law enforcement officer to issue a warning citation for a violation of this provision.

The fine for unlawful display of a license plate would be \$60.

The bill also would make a technical amendment to the uniform fine schedule.

**Background**

Representative Bob Bethell and a representative of the Kansas Highway Patrol spoke in favor of the bill. They cited safety reasons for why information on a license plate should not be obscured. No other testimony was presented or submitted.

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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>

The Senate Committee on Transportation amended the bill to clarify the provision having to do with any material covering a license plate and to add a warning period for enforcement of that provision.

According to the fiscal note, the Department of Revenue indicates any fiscal effect would be negligible.