

SESSION OF 2024

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2501**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Transportation

**Brief\***

HB 2501, as amended, would designate the official state steam locomotive and the official state heritage railroad:

- The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe #3415 Pacific class 4-6-2, built in 1919, would be designated as the official steam locomotive for the state; and
- The Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad would be designated as the official state heritage railroad.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

**Background**

As amended, the bill contains the contents of HB 2501 and HB 2502.

***HB 2501 (Official State Steam locomotive)***

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Hill.

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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>

### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Hill, the President and General Manager of the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad, and the Director of the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau. The proponents described the locomotive and its significance to the community and to locomotive enthusiasts nationwide, noting it is used on the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad. Written-only proponent testimony was received from a representative of American Heritage Railways.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to add the contents of HB 2502.

### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Hill, two 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from St. Andrew's Elementary School in Abilene, and the President and General Manager of the Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad Association. The proponents stated the locomotive's and railroad's historical significance to the area and the tourism benefits for the area. The proponents described the rides and services available. They also stated these designations would increase the chance for the railroad association to obtain grant moneys available for preservation.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by Senator Claeys and representatives of the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau, American Heritage Railways, and the Topeka Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

***HB 2502 (Official State Heritage Railroad)***

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Hill.

*House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by three 5th grade students from Enterprise Elementary School, the President and General Manager of the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad, and the Director of the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau. The proponents described rides on the train, the visitors drawn to the area because of the railroad and benefits of the railroad to the local economy, and people's enthusiasm for riding trains drawn by steam-powered locomotives. Written-only proponent testimony was received from the 5th grade class at Eisenhower Elementary School in Abilene and the President of the Topeka Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

No other testimony was provided.

**Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal notes prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bills, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Kansas State Historical Society indicate enactment of the bills would have no fiscal effect.

Locomotive; railroad; heritage railroad; designation