

SESSION OF 2024

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 272**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Ways  
and Means

**Brief\***

SB 272, as amended, would increase transfers from the State Highway Fund (SHF) to the Public Use General Aviation Airport Development Fund from \$5.0 million to \$15.0 million annually, starting July 1, 2024. Continuing law authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to use these funds to provide grants to public use general aviation airports for planning, constructing, reconstructing, or rehabilitating facilities.

The bill would also increase the minimum amount that must be expended from the fund for such grants from \$5.0 million to \$15.0 million annually.

[*Note:* Continuing law defines a public use general aviation airport to mean any airport used by the general public for the taking off and landing of aircraft, excluding those airports classified as primary by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA defines a primary airport as one at which more than 10,000 passengers board annually.]

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at the request of Senator Claeys.

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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>

### ***Senate Committee on Ways and Means***

In the Senate Committee hearing on February 14, 2024, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Kansas Association of Airports. Proponents noted that funding supports the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP), which has been funded at \$5.0 million annually since FY 2013. KAIP provides assistance to 109 airports that enable travel, emergency medical transport, search and rescue operations, and aerial agriculture services. Proponents further noted that a recent KDOT assessment of airport infrastructure in Kansas indicates runway pavement conditions are of concern. The additional funding would go toward items such as pavement improvement, safety features, and automated weather observation systems, all of which the proponents indicate are significant for air ambulance services in rural areas.

Written-only **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Abilene Municipal Airport, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas, Chamber of Lawrence, the cities of Lawrence and Liberal, Kansas Hospital Association, and Salina Airport Authority.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to:

- Reduce proposed transfers from the SHF to the Public Use General Aviation Airport Development Fund from \$18.0 million to \$15.0 million annually;
- Reduce the proposed minimum amount that must be expended from the fund from \$18.0 million to \$15.0 million annually; and

- Shift the starting date for such transfers from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2024.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to a fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, as introduced, KDOT indicates the bill would increase expenditures from the Public Use General Aviation Airport Development Fund to \$18.0 million, \$8.0 million more than the Governor's budget recommendation in FY 2024.

Continuing law authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to transfer additional moneys from the SHF to the Public Use General Aviation Airport Development Fund or from the Public Use General Aviation Airport Development Fund to the SHF, provided that a minimum amount of \$5.0 million is expended from the fund annually. KDOT notes that expenditures from the fund were increased from \$5.0 million to \$10.0 million, with a commensurate increase in transfers from the SHF, under the Governor's budget recommendation in FY 2024 for the agency to make additional grants to public use airports.

[*Note:* The Governor's budget recommendation for FY 2025 includes expenditures of \$10.0 million from the Public Use General Aviation Airport Development Fund, with commensurate transfers from the SHF.]

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Public Use General Aviation Airport Development Fund; State Highway Fund; airport