

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2263**

As Agreed to March 24, 2025

Brief*

HB 2263 would make four commemorative designations of transportation infrastructure.

Highway and Bridge Designations

The bill would make the following designations:

- A future interchange on K-10 at Lawrence as the Kris Norton Memorial Interchange;
- A portion of US-77 in Geary and Riley counties as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway;
- Bridge No. 82-14-6.88 (026) in Clay County as the POW/MIA Memorial Bridge;
- A portion of US-160 in Sumner County as the CPL Monte Wayne Forrest Memorial Highway; and
- A portion of K-5 as the Rep Marvin S Robinson Memorial Highway (and redesignate a portion of the Harry Darby Memorial Highway for I-635).

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to retain the contents of HB 2263, the Kris Norton Memorial Interchange, and add the contents of two bills:

- HB 2029, the Rep Marvin S Robinson Memorial Highway, and
- HB 2124, the CPL Monte Wayne Forrest Memorial Highway, the POW MIA Memorial Highway, and the POW MIA Memorial Bridge.

The Conference Committee also agreed to change the effective dates of these provisions from the date of publication in the *Kansas Register* to the date of publication in the statute book.

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

Background

As agreed to by the Conference Committee, the bill includes provisions of HB 2263, HB 2029, and HB 2124. [Note: The provisions of HB 2105 were included in HB 2124, as amended by the House Committee on Transportation.]

HB 2263 (Kris Norton Memorial Interchange)

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of a representative of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by three professional engineers in their private capacities and by Mr. Norton's widow and children. Mr. Norton passed away in 2024. They described Mr. Norton's dedication as a public servant and his impact as an engineer with KDOT for 33 years on the infrastructure of Kansas and on those to whom he was a mentor and friend. According to testimony, he had been involved in projects in 86 Kansas counties, including the South Lawrence Trafficway portion of K-10, and was directly involved in the design of the interchange that would have this designation.

Written-only proponent testimony was received from representatives of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC) and Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and EDC Lawrence-Douglas County, and from 25 private citizens, 16 of whom self-identified as professional engineers who had worked with Mr. Norton.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a professional engineer. The proponent described Mr. Norton as representing the best of KDOT, having contributed his engineering expertise to more than 200 projects in 86 counties and specifically having worked on the interchange described in the bill. The proponent also described Mr. Norton as a dedicated mentor and friend, encouraging and supporting innovation and the next generation of engineers.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of ACEC; Burns & McDonnell; CFS Engineers; Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and EDC Lawrence-Douglas County; and Hg Consult, Inc.; and by 15 private citizens, 7 of whom self-identified as professional engineers who had worked with Mr. Norton.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.]

HB 2029 (Rep Marvin S Robinson Memorial Highway)

The bill was introduced by Representative Penn and 109 others.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Penn, Representative Ballard, and Representative Robinson's brother provided **proponent** testimony. The Mayor of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, provided written-only proponent testimony. The proponents described Representative Robinson's commitment to public service, which included service in the U.S. Navy, on various local boards, and as a Kansas state legislator in 2023 and 2024, and his efforts to preserve the historical Quindaro site in Wyandotte County.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to change "Representative Marvin S Robinson II Memorial Highway" to "Rep Marvin S Robinson Memorial Highway."

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, Representative Penn provided **proponent** testimony, and Representative Ballard and the Mayor of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, both provided written-only proponent testimony. The proponents cited Representative Robinson's commitment to public service and his multifaceted impact on his community.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

HB 2124 (CPL Monte Wayne Forrest Memorial Highway and POW MIA Memorial Highway and Bridge)

The bill was introduced by Representative Hoffman. As amended, HB 2124 includes the provisions of HB 2105, which was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of Representative Bloom.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Hoffman and the nephew of CPL Forrest provided **proponent** testimony. They stated that CPL Forrest died in military action in Vietnam in 1970 and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee adopted a technical amendment and also amended the bill to add the contents of HB 2105. [Note: The Conference Committee retained these amendments.]

HB 2105 (POW MIA Memorial Highway and Bridge)

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of Representative Bloom.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Bloom, the Wakefield VFW Post 7774 POW/MIA Chairman, and the VFW District 4 POW MIA Chairman. They described the importance of honoring those who served the country in war who were prisoners of war or who remain missing in action and described the sacrifices of some of those service members. It was noted that 1,179 Kansans remain missing or unaccounted for from World Wars I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

A representative of the Military Officers Association of America, Kansas Council of Chapters provided written-only proponent testimony.

No other testimony was provided.

A KDOT bridge map of Clay County shows the bridge to be designated as the POW MIA Memorial Bridge is at the north end of Milford Lake, near Wakefield.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Bloom, the Wakefield VFW Post 7774 POW/MIA Chairman, and the Wakefield VFW Post 7774 Commander. The proponents generally stated the importance of honoring and remembering U.S. service members who did not return from war and stated that the designations would help Kansans do so.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.]

Fiscal Information

HB 2263 (Kris Norton Memorial Interchange)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2263, as introduced, KDOT estimates it would cost \$9,020 to manufacture and install two signs for the interchange designated in the bill and \$13,530 would be needed from donations to install the signs. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$9,020 to the

expenditure limitation for the agency operations account in FY 2026. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

HB 2029 (Rep Marvin S Robinson Memorial Highway)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2029, as introduced, KDOT estimates it would cost \$16,260 to manufacture and install two signs for the portion of highway designated in the bill, and \$24,390 would be needed from donations to install the signs. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$16,260 to the expenditure limitation for the agency operations account in FY 2026. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

HB 2124 (CPL Monte Wayne Forrest and POW/MIA Memorial Highway and Bridge)

According to the fiscal notes for HB 2124 and HB 2105, as introduced, KDOT estimates the following costs to manufacture and install signs and the amounts KDOT would need to receive from donations to install the signs:

- HB 2124 (CPL Monte Wayne Forrest Memorial Highway)—\$5,600 to manufacture and install two signs, and \$8,400 would be needed from donations to install the signs; and
- HB 2105 (POW MIA Memorial Highway and POW MIA Memorial Bridge)—\$13,980 to manufacture and install four signs for the highway and two signs for the bridge, and a total of \$20,970 would be needed from donations to install the signs.

KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$19,580 to the expenditure limitations for the agency operations account for FY 2026 (in amounts for each designation equal to the cost of manufacture and installation).

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of HB 2124 and HB 2105 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Memorial highway; K-10; state representative; Quindaro; memorial bridge; POW/MIA; military; Monte Wayne Forrest; engineer; Marvin S. Robinson; Kris Norton

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