

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2124

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2124, as amended, would designate two portions of highway and one bridge in honor of military service members:

- The CPL Monte Wayne Forrest Memorial Highway would be a portion of US-160 in Sumner County, from the eastern city limits of Argonia east to Eden Road;
- The POW MIA Memorial Highway would be US-77 from I-70 in Geary County north to US-24 in Riley County and from its eastern intersection with US-24 in Riley County north to the junction with K-16, also in Riley County; and
- The POW MIA Memorial Bridge would be Bridge No. 82-14-6.88 (026) on K-82 in Clay County.

The bill would require the Secretary of Transportation to place suitable signs to indicate the designations when, pursuant to continuing law, sufficient moneys have been received from gifts and donations for the cost of placing such signs, plus an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray costs for future maintenance or replacement of the signs.

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

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

Background

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.

HB 2105 (POW MIA Memorial Highway and Bridge)

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 Kansas Department of Transportation (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*.

Fiscal Information

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 these bills is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Memorial highway; memorial bridge; POW/MIA; military