

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2274

As Amended by Senate Select Committee on
Veterans Affairs

Brief*

HB 2274, as amended, would amend law to authorize the issuance of non-driver identification (ID) cards to homeless veterans and would designate Kansas as a Purple Heart State and August 7 of each year as Purple Heart Day.

Non-driver ID Cards for Homeless Veterans

The bill would allow any person who is a veteran, as defined by the bill, and is homeless to apply for and be issued a non-driver's ID card without providing an address of principal residence. The bill would provide that a non-driver ID card obtained by a homeless veteran would not expire and would require the veteran to provide a copy of a specified military discharge document to the Kansas Office of Veterans' Services (KOVIS) to verify such person's character of military service.

Letters or Certificates Establishing Veteran Status

The bill would authorize the Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue, to accept, in addition to any other documents proving identity and residency in Kansas accepted for an application for a non-driver ID card, a letter or certificate verifying the applicant resides at or receives services from any of the following entities:

- KOVIS;

*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/>

- Any veterans services medical center located in Kansas;
- Any jail or correctional facility; or
- Any nonprofit organization located in Kansas for the provision of services for the homeless.

If submitting letters or certificates as described above, the bill would require the applicant to provide either:

- Copies or digital forms or accepted documents for proof of identity in lieu of the original documents; or
- Certain expired forms of identification, including, but not limited to, common access cards, Kansas driver's licenses, or Kansas voter registration cards.

Fees

The bill would prohibit the Secretary of Health and Environment (Secretary) from charging or accepting any fee related to a a homeless veteran's request for certain information from the Office of Vital Statistics for the purposes of obtaining a non-driver ID card, if the homeless veteran exhibits correspondence from one of the above-mentioned entities and the homeless veteran needs the requested information to apply for a non-driver ID card. The Secretary would be authorized to provide exemptions for such fees in agency rules and regulations.

Purple Heart State Designation and Purple Heart Day

The bill would designate Kansas as a Purple Heart State, in recognition of Kansas citizens who have earned the Purple Heart as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force.

The bill would require the Governor to issue a proclamation recognizing Purple Heart Day to be observed on August 7 of each year.

The bill would require the Executive Director of KOVS to promote the observance of Purple Heart Day with appropriate activities and direct each local chapter of all veterans' organizations to plan special activities and events to honor the Purple Heart recipients in each chapter.

Background

During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs amended the bill to add the provisions of SB 106, concerning non-driver ID cards for homeless veterans, and SB 200, concerning Purple Heart recognition, to the provisions of HB 2274 concerning occupational licensing fees for military spouses. The provisions of HB 2274 concerning occupational licensing fees for military spouses were subsequently inserted into the conference committee report for HB 2280, which was approved by the Governor on April 8, 2025. Background information on SB 106 and SB 200 is provided below.

In the 2026 Legislative Session, the Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs amended the remaining contents of HB 2274 concerning non-driver ID cards for homeless veterans and Purple Heart Recognition.

HB 2274

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

House Committee on Veterans and Military

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Adjutant General's Department, who stated the bill would remedy an oversight in legislation enacted in the 2024 Legislative Session that excluded current National Guard and Reserve members.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions, who expressed concerns that the bill is overly broad.

No other testimony was provided.

[*Note:* The testimony described above concerns provisions related to occupational licensing fees for military spouses that is not contained in the bill as amended by the Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 5, 2026.]

Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

In the Senate Select Committee hearing on March 25, 2025, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Adjutant General's Department and the Kansas Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), that was substantially similar to testimony provided in the House Committee hearing.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. The representative explained the economic impact of waiving licensing fees for military service members and their spouses.

No other testimony was provided.

[*Note:* The testimony described above concerns provisions related to occupational licensing fees for military

spouses that is not contained in the bill as amended by the Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 5, 2026.]

The Senate Select Committee amended the bill to add the provisions of SB 106, as amended by the Senate Select Committee, and SB 200, as introduced by Senator Alley and 38 others, to the provisions of HB 2274.

In the Senate Select Committee hearing on February 6, 2026, representatives of the Adjutant General's Department, KOVS, and MOAA testified as proponents to the bill. Proponents generally stated the bill would recognize the sacrifices made by Kansas' wounded soldiers and would make it easier for homeless veterans to reintegrate into society.

The Senate Select Committee amended the bill to:

- Require a veteran to provide character of service documents to KOVS for the purpose of verification in obtaining a non-driver ID; and
- Remove Kansas Soldiers' Home and Kansas Veterans' Home from the list of entities that could verify that a homeless veteran is residing at or receiving services from the entity;

SB 106 (Non-driver ID Cards for Homeless Veterans)

SB 106 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Faust-Goudeau.

Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs. In the Senate Select Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Faust-Goudeau and representatives from MOAA and Passageways. The proponents indicated the bill would permit homeless veterans to use alternative forms of proof of identity and residency when applying for non-driver

ID cards and would eliminate fees for homeless veterans to obtain birth certificates for purposes of non-driver ID applications.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Select Committee amended the bill to clarify homeless veterans' non-driver ID cards would not expire.

SB 200 (Purple Heart Recognition)

The bill was introduced by Senator Alley and 38 additional senators.

Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

In the Senate Select Committee hearing, no testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

SB 106 (Non-driver ID Cards for Homeless Veterans)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 106, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment states that enactment of SB 106 would not result in a fiscal effect for the agency as the Office of Vital Statistics already has a process in place to waive fees for veterans. The Kansas Department of Revenue reports that as of January 2024, there is an estimate of 199 homeless veterans in Kansas. There is no estimate for the number of homeless veterans who would obtain an ID card pursuant to the bill. According to the KOVS, enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on agency operations. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of SB 106 was not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

SB 200 (Purple Heart Recognition)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 200, the Office of the Governor indicates any fiscal effect associated with the enactment of SB 200 would be negligible.

KOVS indicates enactment of SB 200 would have no fiscal effect on the agency.

Veterans and military; proof of identity; homeless veterans; identification document fees; Purple Heart; Kansas Office of Veterans Services