

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2372

As Amended by House Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

HB 2372, as amended, would designate the existing Fallen Firefighters Memorial adjacent to the Kansas Firefighters Museum in Wichita as the official Fallen Firefighters Memorial of the State of Kansas and would replace the Kansas Firefighters Memorial Advisory Committee with the Kansas Firefighter Memorial Council (Council).

The bill would also make technical amendments.

***Official Fallen Firefighters Memorial of Kansas
(Section 3)***

The bill would designate the Fallen Firefighters Memorial located adjacent to the Kansas Firefighters Museum in Wichita as the official Fallen Firefighters Memorial of the State of Kansas. The bill would repeal statutes regarding a memorial to Kansas firefighters, duties to the State Fire Marshal, duties of the Secretary of Administration, and the Kansas Firefighters Memorial Fund.

Kansas Firefighters Memorial Council (New Section 1)

The bill would abolish the Firefighters Memorial Advisory Committee and transfer all of its powers, duties, functions, records and other property to the Council.

*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/>

Council Membership (New Section 2)

The Council would be composed of the following members:

- One representative appointed by the Governor from each the following organizations:
 - Fire Marshals Association of Kansas;
 - Kansas Council of Firefighters;
 - Kansas Firefighters Museum;
 - Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs;
 - Kansas State Firefighters Association;
 - Kansas State Funeral Assistance Team;
 - Wichita Park Board; and
- The State Fire Marshal or designee; and
- The Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society or designee.

Council Organization

The bill would require the members of the Council to organize annually by electing a Chairperson and Vice-chairperson and the Council to meet at least once annually at the call of the Chairperson.

The Secretary of Administration, or the Secretary's designee, would serve as secretary for the Council.

Council Duties

The bill would require the Council to make recommendations to the Governor and the Kansas Legislature regarding appropriate activities memorializing or commemorating the services of firefighters in Kansas including, but not limited to, recommendations concerning updates and repairs to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

The bill would authorize the Council to receive and solicit grants, gifts, contributions, and bequests to finance authorized expenditures, including those authorized for the Memorial, and remit all moneys received for deposit in the State Treasury to the credit of the Kansas Firefighters Memorial Fund.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Representative Kessler.

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the House Committee hearing, neutral testimony was provided by the State Fire Marshal and the Wichita City Council, who indicated support for the intent of the legislation and proposed a streamlined approach to recognize the Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Wichita as the official state memorial and transfer the funds collected in the State Firefighters Memorial Fund to the City of Wichita for maintenance and enhancements. The conferees stated concerns with creating a new council to oversee the Memorial, noting the original statutes were required due to the memorial being located on the Statehouse grounds.

Written-only **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the International Association of Firefighters, Wichita Local 135.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to make changes to the membership of the Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial Council.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Administration indicate enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Fallen Firefighters Memorial; Kansas Firefighters Museum; Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial Council; Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial Fund