

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2604

As Recommended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2604 would amend definitions regarding commercial motor vehicles to:

- Add gross vehicle weight to the definitions of class A, B, and C commercial vehicles in vehicle registration statutes;
- Align definitions of commercial motor vehicles in the Kansas Uniform Commercial Drivers' License Act (CDL Act) and the registration statute [*Note:* These definitions would be the same as definitions in federal law establishing standards for commercial drivers licenses, in 49 CFR Part 383.];
- Add a definition of “air mile” to the CDL Act [*Note:* Farm CDL exemptions apply within 150 air miles of the farm]; and
- Add definitions of “gross vehicle weight” to registration statutes and the CDL Act, to mean the weight of the vehicle or power unit plus the weight of the load or the towed unit or units.

Background

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

*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/>

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, a Technical Trooper with the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) provided **proponent** testimony. The Technical Trooper described situations in which a vehicle small enough that its driver is not required to have a CDL pulls a load that, together with the weight of the vehicle, would be heavy enough that the driver would be required to have a CDL, but currently the KHP cannot issue a citation because “gross vehicle weight” is not included in the definition. He noted the requirements to get a CDL help ensure the driver has specialized skills for handling large vehicles. He stated the bill would allow a citation to be issued and improve safety on the highways, and he noted the provisions would not affect farm-related exemptions.

A KDOR representative also provided proponent testimony that noted the bill would align Kansas law with federal CDL regulations and with laws of Missouri and Nebraska, and violation of the CDL Act is a misdemeanor. The Director of the Transportation Division of the Kansas Corporation Commission provided written-only proponent testimony.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, KDOR and KHP indicate enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on either agency.

Commercial vehicle; vehicle weight; Commercial Driver's License Act; vehicle definition