

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2781

As Recommended by House Committee on
Appropriations

Brief*

HB 2781 would authorize the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) to acquire from the Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVs) the Junior Officers' Quarters on Fort Dodge, would designate the Junior Officers' Quarters as a historical landmark, and authorize the KSHS to adopt rules and regulations.

Acquisition of the Junior Officers' Quarters

The bill would authorize the KSHS to acquire by purchase, gift, grant, or donation from the KOVS the Junior Officers' Quarters located on Fort Dodge in Ford County. [Note: The bill includes the legal description of the property.]

The bill would require, prior to the KSHS accepting the property, the Attorney General to approve the deed for the property and determine that the land transfer would convey a fee simple interest in the property to the State. The property would be acquired in the name of the State of Kansas.

State Historical Landmark

The bill would declare the Junior Officers' Quarters possesses a historical interest to the State. Upon acquisition of the property, the KSHS would be required to establish and maintain the building and land as a historical landmark.

*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/>

Rules and Regulations

The KSHS would be authorized to adopt rules and regulations relating to the use, preservation, improvement, control, and maintenance of the Junior Officers' Quarters.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations at the request of Representative Goetz.

House Committee on Appropriations

In the House Committee hearing on March 3, 2026, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Goetz and a representative of the KSHS. The proponents generally stated the land transfer would allow the Junior Officers' Quarters to be preserved and to eventually be used as an educational exhibit.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Ford County Historical Society and the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Written-only **neutral** testimony was provided by a representative of the KOVS.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the KOVS indicates that enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on the agency. However, the State Historical Society indicates that upon enactment of the bill, the agency would expend \$50,000 in available federal funds in FY 2027 on the stabilization of the foundation of the Junior Officers' Quarters.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in either agencies' Five-year Capital Improvement Plan or in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Kansas State Historical Society; Kansas Office of Veterans Services; Junior Officers' Quarters; Fort Dodge; Ford County; historical landmark; land transfer