

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 325

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 325 would prohibit a person from attaching or displaying on any vehicle, or operating a vehicle with, a license plate with any frame or other object on or around the plate that affects its visibility or legibility.

For purposes of the bill, "legibility" or "visibility" would mean the ability to determine the alphanumeric registration number assigned, the state of issue, the month of expiration on the registration decal, the color of the registration decal, and any other required decal from a reasonably safe distance. The bill would exclude from that definition the ability to determine the abbreviated state designation, the expiration year, and the plate number on the registration decal.

Under continuing law, it is unlawful for any person to attach or display on any vehicle, or to operate a vehicle with a license plate that is covered, in whole or in part, with any clear or opaque material or any other plastic-like material that affects the plate's visibility or reflectivity.

The bill also would move a provision regarding secure fastening of a license plate from registration statutes to the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways and remove an outdated provision.

*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 the Senate Committee on Transportation at the request of Senator Warren.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Peace Officers Association, and Kansas Sheriffs Association provided **proponent** testimony, stating that enactment of the bill would provide a fix to the statutes that is needed in response to the Kansas Supreme Court decision in *State v. Beck* (2025). The proponent also stated that the ability to read a license plate clearly, particularly the state name, is a safety issue for law enforcement officers, allowing them to better identify a risk such as that associated with a stolen vehicle. He also stated moving provisions regarding secure fastening of a license plate would make violation a traffic infraction rather than a misdemeanor.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP); Kansas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police; Wichita Police Department; and the League of Kansas Municipalities.

Opponent testimony was provided by a criminal defense attorney. The opponent stated the bill would create ambiguity in the law and increase unnecessary traffic stops.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

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

The Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on revenues to the Judicial Branch and an accurate estimate of the fiscal effect on expenditures cannot be given until the courts have had an opportunity to operate under the provisions of the bill.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Association of Counties indicate enactment of the bill would have a negligible fiscal effect.

Transportation; motor vehicles; license plates; display