

SESSION OF 2026

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 353**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Transportation

**Brief\***

SB 353, as amended, would create the Kansas Railroad Hall of Fame Act, which would establish the Kansas Railroad Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame), a selection committee to choose its honorees and manage the Hall of Fame, and a process for the selection of honorees. The bill also would designate the Great Plains Transportation Museum in Wichita as the official site of and repository for the Hall of Fame.

***Selection Committee Organization***

The bill would vest the management of the Hall of Fame with the Kansas Railroad Hall of Fame Selection Committee (Selection Committee). The Committee would be composed of ex officio and appointed members:

- The Executive Director of the Great Plains Transportation Museum and the Executive Director of the State Historical Society would serve ex officio with all powers of appointed members; and
- The Governor would appoint:
  - Two members from a list of five current or former members of the Great Plains Transportation Museum board of directors;
  - One representative of the railroad industry; and

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\*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/>

- Two representatives of the public who are or have been employed in the railroad industry.

The bill would establish term lengths and provide procedures for filling vacancies on the Selection Committee. Members would serve without compensation except reimbursement for expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing duties.

The bill would require the Selection Committee to organize annually to choose its chairperson, vice-chairperson, and treasurer. Its meetings would be open to the public and be held at the facilities of the Great Plains Transportation Museum or in proximity to the Hall of Fame. Decisions would be by majority vote, and members would be authorized to participate remotely if that participation and vote are ascertainable by members of the public physically present at the meeting.

#### ***Selection of Inductees to the Hall of Fame***

The bill would authorize the Selection Committee to annually select individuals for induction into the Hall of Fame, to honor their achievements in or for the Kansas railroad industry.

**Qualifications.** The bill would require a candidate to have:

- Worked within Kansas with an officially sanctioned railroad operating in Kansas;
- Worked in Kansas in the manufacture of railroad-related products, rail cars, or locomotives; or
- Been otherwise significantly involved in the railroad industry in Kansas; and
- Contributed significantly to rail service in Kansas or to the preservation of Kansas' rail heritage.

**Nomination.** The bill would authorize any member of the Selection Committee or an interested individual to nominate a candidate for consideration for induction into the Hall of Fame. The bill would require the Selection Committee to make available in printed format or on its website or the webpage of the Hall of Fame a nomination form that the bill would require to include:

- Contact information of the nominee or a relative or close personal acquaintance of the nominee if the nominee is deceased;
- Information about the nominator, including the nominator's relationship to the nominee;
- A statement of approximately 1,000 words or more explaining why the nominee should be a candidate for induction, including how the nominee contributed to the Kansas rail industry and meets criteria for selection; and
- Other information the Selection Committee requires.

#### ***Selection Committee Additional Duties***

**Location.** The bill would require the Selection Committee to provide for an appropriate location at or near the facilities of the Great Plains Transportation Museum to display various types of material that comes into the Selection Committee's possession to recognize the achievements of individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame. The bill would authorize the Selection Committee to provide an outside display regarding inductees and authorize its placement on public property or public right-of-way in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) or local government authorities. The bill would require KDOT to assist with siting and establishment of the display upon request by the Selection Committee.

**Website.** The bill would require the Selection Committee to establish a website or webpage for the Hall of Fame that could be located on or linked with the website of the Great Plains Transportation Museum.

**Donations and spending.** The bill would authorize the Selection Committee to solicit and accept gifts of money, services, real or personal property, or rights from individuals, businesses, organizations, or any governmental source to be used for the Hall of Fame as the Selection Committee finds, by majority vote, to be appropriate.

**Induction ceremonies.** The bill would require the Selection Committee to provide appropriate ceremonies at least annually to induct individuals into the Hall of Fame, at the Great Plains Transportation Museum or near the Hall of Fame. The bill would authorize the Selection Committee to fix and charge fees for attendance at induction ceremonies.

## **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

### ***Senate Committee on Transportation***

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Faust-Goudeau, the Director of the Great Plains Transportation Museum, and a representative of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Union provided **proponent** testimony. They provided information on Kansas transportation and specifically railroad history and its importance and described the benefits of adding the Hall of Fame to the Great Plains Transportation Museum.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Downtown Wichita, Kansas Railroad

Association, League of Kansas Municipalities, Visit Wichita, and Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to authorize, rather than require, the Selection Committee to choose inductees annually and to remove a requirement that two inductees be selected.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, KDOT and the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) indicate enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on operations of the agencies.

Railroad; hall of fame; museum; transportation