

SESSION OF 2012

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE RESOLUTION NO.
1806**

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SR 1806, as amended, would urge Congress to exempt Kansas from a federal freeze on vehicle size.

Background

In federal code, 23 USC §127 sets weight limits on federal highways and prohibits a state from allowing longer combination vehicles than were allowed under state law in 1991; 49 USC §31112 prohibits a state from allowing vehicles longer than those allowed under state law as of 1991. Those federal laws contain specific exemptions from those limits for a few states.

A representative of the Kansas Motor Carriers Association testified in support of the resolution. Written proponent testimony was submitted by the National Solid Wastes Management Association. A representative of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, Kansas Railroads, and Union Pacific Railroad testified in opposition to the resolution as introduced.

When the Senate Committee on Transportation heard the request for the resolution, custom harvesters, including a representative of U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc., testified in support of such a resolution. Representative Sharon Schwartz also spoke in support of introduction of such a

*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 <http://www.kslegislature.org>

resolution. The harvesters stated the equipment they transport has significantly increased in size since 1991 and differences between vehicle size limits in Kansas and Nebraska cause delays and increase transportation costs.

The original resolution would have requested repeal of 23 USC §127(d) regarding longer combination vehicles. Testimony indicated the federal transportation bills under consideration at the time of Committee action do not repeal that provision.

The Senate Committee on Transportation amended the resolution to request an exemption similar to that in 49 USC §31112 for Nebraska, which allows additional length for equipment transported by custom harvesters under contract to agricultural producers of wheat, soybeans, and milo during state-defined harvest months.