

## **Transit Bus Operations; Eldon K Miller Memorial Highway; HB 2096**

**HB 2096** authorizes certain operations of transit buses and designates a memorial highway.

### ***Transit Bus Operation on Certain Highway Shoulders***

The bill allows the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to authorize operation of transit buses on the right shoulders of state highways in Wyandotte County. Previous law limited such operation to Johnson County.

The bill replaces the former reporting requirement with a requirement the Secretary and persons designated by the boards of commissioners of Johnson and Wyandotte counties report to the Legislature on the implementation and operation of the program on or before March 1 in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Under prior law, the Secretary and persons designated by the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners were required to report annually, before the tenth day of each regular session.

### ***Eldon K Miller Memorial Highway***

The bill designates a portion of US-75, in Woodson County north of Yates Center, as the Eldon K Miller Memorial Highway. The bill removes that portion of US-75 from designation as the Purple Heart/Combat Wounded Veterans Highway.

According to testimony, Sergeant Miller, a native of Yates Center, served in the U.S. Army Corps during World War II and was a Kansas Highway Patrol trooper starting in 1953. He was killed in the line of duty in Overland Park in 1968.

Under continuing law, the Secretary is required to place suitable signs to indicate such designation. However, the Secretary is precluded from placing these signs until the Secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for the cost of placing such signs, plus an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement of the signs. The Secretary may accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing suitable signs.