

Township and County Responsibilities for Traffic-control Devices; Highway Improvement Funds; HB 2511

HB 2511 amends the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways (Act) as it relates to the powers of local authorities and responsibilities for traffic-control devices and signage. It also amends law regarding a special highway improvement fund.

Responsibility for Traffic-control Devices and Signage

County-township System

In all counties operating under the county-township system, the county will be responsible for maintaining county roads and for placing and maintaining traffic-control devices. The county will also be responsible for:

- Signs related to county culverts and county bridges on township roads; and
- Construction signage related to county projects on township roads.

A township board will be responsible for maintaining the local township roads and for placing and maintaining traffic-control devices on such township roads, except those listed above as being under the control of the board of county commissioners. The bill requires regulatory signs on township roads under the township board's control to be consistent with resolutions of the board of county commissioners of the county where the road is located.

Under prior law, the provisions above applied only to townships located in five specified counties (Douglas, Johnson, Riley, Sedgwick, and Shawnee).

County Unit Road System

In all counties operating under the county unit road system, the bill places the following responsibilities for traffic-control devices and signage:

- Counties are to maintain the county roads and township roads and to place and maintain all traffic-control devices on such roads; and
- Township boards will not be responsible for roads or signage.

General County Rural Highway System

In all counties operating under the general county rural highway system, the bill places responsibilities for traffic-control devices and signage as follows:

- Counties are to maintain the county roads and township roads and place and maintain all traffic devices on such roads in accordance with continuing law; and
- Township boards will not be responsible for roads or signage.

Roads and Bridges

The bill amends a section of law relating to roads and bridges to reference the responsibilities of township boards as outlined in the amendments to the Act in the bill.

Prior law required township boards in all counties not operating under the county road-unit system to be responsible for all township roads and culverts and the board of county commissioners to procure machinery, implements, tools, and materials required for the construction or repair of such roads and culverts.

The bill clarifies that township boards in counties operating under the county-township system (changed from those not operating under the county road unit system) will be responsible for providing such machinery, tools, and materials. The bill also requires the township board to place and maintain all traffic-control devices for township roads.

Special Highway Improvement Fund for Townships

The bill adds “township” to the definition of “municipality” and adds “township board” to the definition of “governing body” to allow a township, as well as a city or county as in continuing law, to transfer funds into a special highway improvement fund. Under continuing law, moneys in such a fund are dedicated for construction or reconstruction of highways, bridges, roads, and streets and for necessary incidental facilities.