

SESSION OF 2019

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2070

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2070, as amended, would designate the portion of US-75 from the junction of US-75 and NW 46th Street in Shawnee County to the junction of US-75 and I-70 as the John Armstrong Memorial Highway and would remove this portion of US-75 from designation as the Purple Heart/Combat Wounded Veterans Highway.

The bill also would designate bridge No. 018-011 on US-77 in Cowley County as the SGT Kevin A. Gilbertson Memorial Bridge.

The Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) would be required to place suitable signs to indicate the designations. Under continuing law, 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 50.0 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.

Background

As amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation, HB 2070 would contain provisions of HB 2070 as passed by the House and SB 136 as amended by the Senate Committee.

*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>

HB 2070 (John Armstrong Memorial Highway)

The bill was introduced in the House Committee on Transportation by Representative Francis on behalf of Representative Patton on January 22, 2019.

In the House Committee hearing on February 6, 2019, Representative Patton testified as a proponent to introduce both the bill and the proponents from Seaman High School. A teacher and several students from Seaman High School testified as proponents. The proponent testimony focused on Kansas history and John Armstrong's abolitionist work as both a soldier in the Civil War and a member of the Underground Railroad in Kansas. The proponents from Seaman High School stated their intentions to raise funds for the signage designating the portion of US-75 as the John Armstrong Memorial Highway. No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

The House Committee recommended the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

In the Senate Committee hearing, several students from Seaman High School testified as proponents. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to add the contents of SB 136, as amended, regarding designating the SGT Kevin A. Gilbertson Memorial Bridge.

The designation of US-75 as the Purple Heart/Combat Wounded Veterans Highway generally extends from the Nebraska state line to the Oklahoma state line, with five exceptions in current law.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Kansas Department of Transportation (Department) indicates it is statutorily required (KSA 68-10,114) to receive a total of \$4,890 in donations to manufacture, install, and conduct maintenance on two signs

along US-75 to designate that portion of the highway as the John Armstrong Memorial Highway. This cost includes \$3,260 to manufacture and install the signs and an additional 50.0 percent of the initial cost that is required before the Department can install the signs. The Department indicates the bill would require an increase of \$3,260 in expenditure limitation for the agency operations account in FY 2020. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.

SB 136 (SGT Kevin A. Gilbertson Memorial Bridge)

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Transportation at the request of Senator Alley.

At the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Alley provided proponent testimony, stating Sergeant Gilbertson served in the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division and died August 31, 2007, while serving in Iraq. The bridge to be so designated crosses the Arkansas River near the Oklahoma state line.

KDOT provided written-only testimony in support of the bill and requested an amendment to conform the designation to requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to add Sergeant Gilbertson's middle initial and to remove "Veterans" before "Memorial" in the designation.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, KDOT estimates it would cost \$2,660 to manufacture and install two signs showing the designation near the bridge identified in the bill. Including an additional 50.0 percent of the initial cost to defray future sign maintenance, the Secretary would need to receive a total of \$3,990 from donations to install the signs. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$2,660

to the expenditure limitation for the agency operations account in FY 2020. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.