As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2025

HOUSE BILL No. 2372

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Requested by Representative Kessler

2-11

AN ACT concerning state memorials; relating to the fallen firefighters memorial; designating the existing fallen firefighters memorial within the Kansas firefighters museum in Wichita as the official fallen firefighters memorial of the state of Kansas; creating the Kansas fallen firefighters memorial council; abolishing the existing Kansas firefighters memorial advisory committee and transferring such committee's powers, duties, functions, records and other property to the newly created council; requiring expenditures from the Kansas fallen firefighters memorial fund for the purposes of constructing, updating and repairing the memorial and allowing expenditures to be made for other purposes related to memorializing and honoring Kansas firefighters; amending K.S.A. 75-36,102 and repealing the existing section; also repealing K.S.A. 75-36,103.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. The Kansas firefighters memorial advisory committee is hereby abolished, and all powers, duties, functions, records and other property of the Kansas firefighters memorial advisory committee are hereby transferred to the Kansas fallen firefighters memorial council created by section 2, and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas fallen firefighters memorial council, which shall be composed of nine members as follows:

(1) A representative of the Kansas state firefighters association appointed by the governor;

(2) a representative of the Kansas state association of fire chiefs appointed by the governor;

(3) a representative of the Kansas ~~professional fire chiefs association~~ **firefighters museum** appointed by the governor;

(4) a representative of the Kansas council of firefighters appointed by the governor;

(5) a representative of the~~ fire education association of Kansas~~ **Wichita park board** appointed by the governor;

(6) a representative of the Kansas~~ chapter of the international association of arson investigators~~ **state funeral assistance team** appointed

by the governor;

(7) a representative of the fire marshal's association of Kansas appointed by the governor;

(8) the state fire marshal or the marshal's designee; and

(9) the executive director of the Kansas state historical society or the executive director's designee.

(b) The council shall make recommendations to the governor and the legislature regarding appropriate activities memorializing or commemorating the services of firefighters in Kansas, including, but not limited to, recommendations concerning the updating and repairing of the fallen firefighters memorial pursuant to K.S.A. 75-36,102, and amendments thereto. The council may solicit grants, gifts, contributions and bequests for the memorial and shall remit all moneys so received for deposit in the state treasury to the credit of the Kansas firefighters memorial fund in accordance with K.S.A. 75-36,102, and amendments thereto.

(c) The members of the council shall organize annually by electing a chairperson and vice chairperson. The council shall meet at least once each year upon the call of the chairperson. The secretary of administration, or the secretary's designee, shall serve as secretary for the council. Members of the council appointed by the governor under this section shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 75-36,102 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-36,102. (a) ~~There shall be placed on state property within the state capitol plaza area a memorial to Kansas firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty in the service of the state. Such memorial shall be located at a site to be selected by the director. Such memorial shall be constructed in accordance with the design and architectural drawings approved by the director. The memorial shall be of such a design that the names of the firefighters to be honored, both past and future, may be inscribed thereon.~~ *The fallen firefighters memorial ~~located at~~* **adjacent to** *the Kansas firefighters museum at 1300 S. Broadway Wichita, KS 67211, is hereby designated as the official fallen firefighters memorial within the state of Kansas. Annually,* the director shall cause ~~annually~~ the name or names of any firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty in the service of the state to be inscribed upon the memorial. ~~The memorial for Kansas firefighters is subject to the provisions, procedures and approvals required under K.S.A. 75-36,102 through 75-36,106, and amendments thereto, except that such memorial for Kansas firefighters is hereby authorized by the legislature for purposes of subsection (b) of K.S.A. 75-36,106, and amendments thereto.~~

(b) It shall be the duty of the state fire marshal on or before the 15th day of March of each year to notify the secretary of administration of the

name or names of any firefighters who *have* lost their lives in the line of duty during the preceding calendar year. The state fire marshal shall ~~assemble~~ *gather* the necessary information regarding any such firefighter and report ~~the same~~ *such information* to the director.

(c) The ~~secretary of administration~~ *Kansas fallen firefighters memorial council* is hereby authorized to receive any grants, gifts, contributions or bequests made for the purpose of financing ~~the construction of such memorial or for its upkeep and the addition of names thereto and to expend the same for the purpose for which received~~ *expenditures authorized pursuant to subsection (d)*.

(d) There is hereby established in the state treasury the Kansas *fallen* firefighters memorial fund. Expenditures from the fund ~~may~~ *shall* be made for the purposes of ~~constructing,~~ updating and repairing ~~such~~ *the fallen firefighters* memorial~~,~~ *and may be made* for other purposes related to memorializing and honoring Kansas firefighters and for such purposes as may be specified with regard to any grant, gift, contribution or bequest. All such expenditures shall be authorized by the Kansas *fallen* firefighters memorial ~~advisory committee~~ *council* and made upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of administration or the secretary's designee.

(e) On or before the 10th of each month, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the Kansas *fallen* firefighters memorial fund interest earnings based on:

(1) The average daily balance of moneys in the Kansas *fallen* firefighters memorial fund for the preceding month; and

(2) the net earnings rate for the pooled money investment portfolio for the preceding month.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 75-36,102 and 75-36,103 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.