

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 624

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 624 provides for the issuance of the "Choose Life" license plate. The bill specifies that owners or lessees of one or more passenger vehicles or trucks of a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less can be issued one distinctive plate for each passenger vehicle after payment of royalty fees of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100, annually. The plates would be issued for the same time as other license plates upon registration and payment of the regular license plate and presentation of the annual logo use authorization statement. The bill also would:

- Prohibit the transfer of registration or license plate to any other person;
- Require annual registration renewals;
- Deny annual registration renewals to an applicant until the applicant furnishes the annual logo use authorization statement;
- Require the applicant to return the plate to the country treasurer if the applicant fails to present the authorization statement;
- Grant the Board of Directors of the Kansans for Life Educational Trust Fund the authorization to allow the use of their logo on the license plates;
- Require the Kansans for Life Educational Trust Fund to issue an applicant a logo authorization statement which will be presented by the applicant at the time of registration;

*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/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>

- Require royalty payments to be made to the Trust Fund and used to support women in crisis pregnancy and encourage adoption;
- Establish the fee between \$25 and \$100 for the logo use royalty payment for each license plate issued;
- Require the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund to pay the initial cost of silk-screening the plates;
- Require the Board to provide county treasurers a toll-free telephone number for applicants to inquire about license plate matters; and
- Require the Board, with the approval of the Director of Vehicles, to design the plate.

Background

Conferees who testified in support of the "Choose Life" license plates included Lowell Ramsey, Kansans for Life and Russ Amerling, Publicist Coordinator of Choose Life, Inc. These conferees discussed the history of similar legislation in Florida and the purpose of the bill, which they indicated would help 67 centers in Kansas to provide various services, including free pregnancy testing, maternity clothes, financial planning, job search help, money for rent, and other services. The presenter from the Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri testified in opposition to the bill. She discussed the history of the "Choose Life" plates and legal challenges against them in other states.

The Senate Committee put SB 518 into SB 624. SB 518 pertained to the "Autism Society of Johnson County Kansas" license plates.

The Senate Committee of the Whole removed the provisions relating to the "Autism Society of Johnson County Kansas" license plates.

Passage of the "Choose Life" license plates would not affect State Highway Fund revenue. The registration fee specified in the bill is the same as those contained in current law. There would be no additional revenue since the plates are exempted from the personalized license plate fee. A total of \$6,115 to \$14,725 in additional expenditures would be incurred for the Division of Vehicles. The additional expenditures

would be the result of the \$1,250 for the cost of the plates, approximately \$1,175 for 80 hours of system testing, and additional administrative costs for Vehicle Information Processing System programming between \$3,690 and \$12,300. The lower amount reflects the cost of using in-house programmers, but if in-house programmers were not available, the Department would have to spend up to \$12,300 for contract programmers.