

SESSION OF 2002

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 655**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Elections and Local Government

**Brief\***

SB 655 amends a law dealing with township and county roads. The bill provides that any owner of property adjacent to or abutting a county road which has been laid out, but not opened, prior to the effective date of this act, who desires to have the road opened, has the duty to open the road. The property owner must establish a maintainable road bed and drainage in accordance with the standards established by the county engineer. Thereafter, it will be the duty of the board of county commissioners to maintain the road.

Further, if the owner of any property adjacent to or abutting a county road which has been opened, but the road has not been maintained by the county for at least 20 years or has not been regularly used by the general public and the owner desires to have the road maintained for general public use, it shall be the duty of the owner to establish a maintainable road bed and drainage in accordance with the standards established by the board of county commissioners. Thereafter, it becomes the duty of the board of county commissioners to maintain the road. Nothing in this act, however, shall be construed to affect the rights of a landowner involved in a boundary line dispute with another landowner in regard to the location of a county or township road.

**Background**

The bill was requested by the Morris County Attorney and was supported by the Kansas Association of Counties. The amendments

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\*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>

regarding opening or maintaining county roads parallel existing law  
regarding township roads.