

SESSION OF 2003

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2158

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2158 pertains to authorized emergency vehicles. The bill would require operators of wreckers, tow trucks, or car carriers designated as authorized emergency vehicles to operate lights authorized under KSA 8-1720 (the statute which specifies the location and spacing of the lamps on the vehicle, the color of the flashing lamps, and the intensity thereof). These lights could only be activated when these vehicles are stationary and providing emergency service on the side of a highway. The bill also would move from county commissioners to the Kansas Corporation Commission the authority to designate such vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles.

Background

The Executive Director of Kansas Motor Carriers Association (KMCA) testified in support of the bill before the House and Senate Transportation Committees. He noted, among other things, that tow trucks are currently designated as emergency vehicles under KSA 2002 Supp. 8-2010a. A problem, however, has arisen with regard to the designation of these vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles by county commissioners. In some cases, some commissioners do not issue permits to tow truck operators and as a result these operators cannot legally operate the emergency lamps on these vehicles. According to the Executive Director, the bill was requested by KMCA to create a uniform procedure for Kansas tow trucks and to protect operators that provide wrecker or towing service at the scene of an accident or provide emergency service on the side of the road.

*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/klrd>

No conferees presented testimony to the House or Senate Transportation Committees in opposition to the bill.

The Senate Transportation Committee's amendment was technical.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicates that HB 2158 would have no fiscal effect on any state fund.