

SESSION OF 2006

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2513**

As Agreed to March 28, 2006

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2513, as amended, would require the courts to notify the Division of Vehicles electronically when:

- The court determines that a person has complied with the terms of a traffic citation;
- A person has been convicted of an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle;
- A person has had his or her bail or bond forfeited;
- A person has been convicted of manslaughter that involved a vehicle; and
- Upon final disposition of an appeal.

The Division of Vehicles also would be required to maintain electronic abstracts of all information received for public inspection.

The bill would require the use of strobe lights on new school buses put into service after July 1, 2007. The lights would be placed on the roof of the school bus to afford maximum visibility.

The bill would become effective on July 1, 2007.

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. The conference committee summary report may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to require the use of strobe lights on new school buses only. These buses would be put into service after July 1, 2007.

Background

The House Transportation Committee, upon the request of the Director of Vehicles, placed the provisions of HB 2780 into a sub. for HB 2513.

At a hearing on the substitute bill, the Bureau Chief of the Division of Vehicles said the proposed legislation is in response to reporting requirements regarding commercial drivers' licenses of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. She noted that Kansas must be in compliance by 2008 with notifications of convictions for drivers with commercial licenses. It was explained a more expeditious way to report is needed because the current system of manual reporting via paper by courts to the Division is excessively time consuming and labor intensive. The Senate Committee was told failure to enact legislation contained in Sub. for HB 2513 would put in jeopardy a percentage of the \$200 million in Interstate Highway Construction Funds Kansas gets annually. In the first year of noncompliance, 5 percent of the \$200 million, or \$10 million, could be lost. In the second year of noncompliance the percentage would raise to 10 percent, or a loss of about \$20 million.

In a hearing on the reporting provisions of the bill, the Kansas Association for Court Management conferee told the Committee many municipal courts that serve small communities use simple word processing and database programs, and some are still basically paper systems. This conferee suggested the courts be given a minimum of one year to comply with the provisions of the bill. The Assistant General Counsel of the League of Kansas Municipalities expressed concern that the bill would impose reporting requirements on smaller courts that neither the court personnel nor the cities are presently prepared to handle due to staffing or technological limitations.

The fiscal note prepared by the Director of the Budget for the original House bill, indicates the Office of Judicial Administration reports 103 of the 105 counties currently use a software program that could be used to comply with the bill. The software has the ability to report information electronically within its existing capacity. Shawnee

and Johnson counties, however, do not use this program and would need to modify their existing systems. The Department of Revenue estimates approximately nine weeks of in-house programming time would be required to modify the Kansas Drivers License System in accordance with the reporting provisions of Sub. for HB 2513. The modifications could be done within existing resources.

The new section added to the bill by the Senate Committee was supported by a member of the Senate in Committee hearings on SB 210. No one appeared in opposition.

The fiscal note on SB 210 states, according to the Department of Education, the installation of strobe lights would have negligible cost to local school districts and would not require any additional appropriation for the Department. It was noted some school districts already have strobe lights on the district buses.