

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 413

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 413, as amended by Senate Transportation Committee, pertains to the regulation of golf carts. The bill would:

- Define a golf cart as a motor vehicle that has not less than three wheels in contact with the ground, an unladen weight of not more than 1,8000 pounds, is designed to be and is operated at not more than 25 miles per hour and is designed to carry not more than four persons including the driver;
- Make it unlawful to operate a golf cart on any interstate highway, federal highway or state highway or any street or highway with a posted speed limit greater than 30 miles per hour;
- Allow golf carts to cross a federal or state highway or street or highway with a posted speed limit in excess of 30 miles per hour;
- Allow local jurisdictions to regulate the operation of golf carts;
- Require a golf cart to display a slow-moving vehicle emblem;
- Exempt golf carts from registration;
- Require a golf cart to be equipped with efficient brakes, brake lights, reliable steering apparatus, rearview mirror, red reflectorized warning devices in both the front and rear and turn signal equipment;
- Provide that golf carts that comply with new Section 2 of the bill (golf cart operations on public right of ways, equipment, and hours of operation) also would not have to comply with the equipment requirements of Article 17-Uniform Act Regulating Traffic; Equipment of Vehicles; and

*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>

- Impose a \$60 fine for the unlawful operation of a golf cart.

Background

Senator Janis Lee testified in favor of the bill. She noted that the bill was requested from constituents familiar with a similar law in Arizona. These constituents are senior citizens from communities where no public transportation system is available. She indicated these constituents believe that allowing the use of appropriately equipped golf carts on the streets in their communities would allow some elderly people to continue living in their homes.

Written testimony in favor of the bill also was furnished by the law firm of Albright & Gaffney, Chartered, Anthony, Kansas. This testimony included a motion filed in district court on behalf of the client to designate the golf cart as a motorized wheelchair. The motion, however, was not granted by the court.

The Department of Transportation and League of Municipalities both indicate this bill would have no fiscal effect.