

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2951

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2951 would designate that portion of U.S. Highway 36 from the eastern boundary of Smith County then west to the western boundary of Smith County as the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway. Other provisions would:

- Require the Secretary of Transportation to place signs along the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to indicate the designation;
- Preclude the placing the signs until the Secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for the cost of placing the signs;
- Require an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement costs of the signs; and
- Allow the Secretary to accept and receive gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing suitable signs.

The bill also would designate Interstate Highway 335 from the junction of Interstate Highway 335 with Interstate Highway 470 to the junction of Interstate Highway 335 with Interstate Highway 35 as the United States Submarine Veteran's Memorial Highway.

Other provisions would:

- Require the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) to place signs along the highway right-of-way to indicate the designation;
- Preclude the KTA from placing the signs until it has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the KTA for the cost of placing the signs;

*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>

- Require an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement costs of the signs; and
- Allow the KTA to accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing the signs.

Background

Conferees who testified in support of the original bill included Representatives Vickrey, Olson, and Henry (who submitted written testimony). Charles Yunker, American Legion, also presented testimony in support of the bill. Mr. Yunker told the House Transportation Committee that the designation is a fitting tribute to the state's last remaining veteran of World War I, Mr. A.F. "Jud" Wagner, a resident of Smith Center, Kansas. Mr. Wagner, who at the age of 106, is believed to be the oldest living United States marine.

The Committee of the Whole added the provisions for the designation of Interstate Highway 335 as the United States Submarine Veteran's Memorial Highway.

The original fiscal note prepared by the Director of the Budget indicates that the Kansas Department of Transportation states that \$700 is the usual cost of erecting a sign along the mainline of a highway. The bill specifies that no signs can be placed until sufficient private funds have been received from donations to cover the cost of the signs and another 50.0 percent, or \$350 of that cost, to defray future maintenance costs. That would be a total of \$1,050 per sign. Uniform traffic control regulations adopted under K.S.A. 8-2003 limit the number of memorial signs to two, one covering each direction of traffic on the highway. If "proper intervals" in the bill is interpreted to mean two signs in keeping with the current regulations, the fiscal effect of the bill would be \$2,100. If HB 2951 is interpreted to be more than the two signs under current law, then the fiscal effect would be another \$1,050 for each additional signs.