

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2553

As Recommended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2553 would authorize issuance of the PBS Kansas distinctive license plate on and after January 1, 2027, for use on a passenger vehicle or truck registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less.

The bill would establish the procedures for a vehicle owner or lessee to obtain the license plate; the responsibilities of Kansas Public Telecommunications Service, Inc., with regard to these license plates; and collection and remittance procedures for royalty payments. The bill would allow Kansas Public Telecommunications Service, Inc., to set royalties for use of its logo for each license plate at an amount of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100, to be paid at initial issuance and renewal.

The bill would authorize the Director of Vehicles, Department of Revenue, to transfer a PBS Kansas license plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Helgerson.

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Helgerson and the President and Chief Executive Officer of PBS Kansas provided **proponent** testimony. They stated the organization seeks to raise money to continue local programming and children's educational content on KPTS, Channel 8, in Wichita, and several PBS member stations in other states have established specialty license plates. They noted substantial reductions in federal government funding for public broadcasting.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Department of Revenue indicates enactment of the bill would increase its expenditures by \$3,750 in FY 2027 for administrative costs related to designing and manufacturing the new license plates, which would be offset by increased revenue to the Distinctive License Plate Fund from a \$5,000 nonrefundable fee required from the sponsor of a new distinctive license plate to defray costs for development of the plate.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

License plate; PBS; Kansas Public Telecommunications Service