

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2615

As Recommended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2615 would designate as the Brig Gen George H Wark Memorial Highway a portion of US-75 in Montgomery County, from its southern junction with US-166 south to the Kansas-Oklahoma border. The bill would remove this portion from the Purple Heart/Combat Wounded Veterans Highway; the remainder of US-75 would continue to be designated as the Purple Heart/Combat Wounded Veterans Highway.

The bill would require the Secretary of Transportation to place suitable signs to indicate the designations once, pursuant to continuing law, sufficient moneys have been received from gifts and donations for the cost of placing such signs, plus an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray costs for future maintenance or replacement of the signs.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Blex on behalf of the Ernest Brown American Legion Post #138 and the Caney Valley Historical Museum.

House Committee on Transportation

In the Committee Hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Adjutant

*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/>

General's Department and a representative of the Ernest Brown American Legion Post #138 and the Caney Valley Historical Museum. The proponents stated Brigadier General George H. Wark's military career started in the Kansas National Guard and that he organized Company D for World War I and the Ernest Brown American Legion Post #138 upon returning from the War. He was awarded the Silver Star, Presidential Citation, Victory Medal and Ribbon for his bravery and actions in leading others. He was credited with reestablishing the Kansas National Guard and achieved the rank noted in the National Guard. He practiced law in Caney.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by Representative Blex and two representatives of the National Guard Association of Kansas.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) indicates it would cost \$5,220 to manufacture and install two signs for the highway and \$7,830 in gifts and donations received by KDOT prior to sign installation. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$5,220 to the expenditure limitations for agency operations in FY 2027. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Brig Gen George H Wark Memorial Highway; memorial highway