

UPDATED
SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 26

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Assessment and Taxation

Brief*

SB 26, as amended, would create a sales tax exemption for certain purchases by bowling alleys or bowling centers.

The exemption would apply to materials, machinery, and equipment purchased for commercial use and used directly in the game of bowling; related installation or maintenance services; and corresponding replacement parts or accessories.

For purposes of the exemption, “machinery and equipment” would be defined as automatic pin setters; ball returns; lane machines and lane cleaning machines; score screens and tables; bowling seating, pins, balls, and shoes; and other equipment designed specifically for the game of bowling. “Materials” would be defined as lane cleaners and conditioners, shoe cleaners, and shoe deodorizers.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation at the request of a representative of the Kansas State Bowling Proprietors’ Association.

*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/>

Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas State Bowling Proprietors' Association, Billy's Ayr Lanes, and Flint Hill Lanes. The proponents generally stated that recent rising costs make it difficult to operate a bowling center; that they should not be taxed on purchases of such things as trash bags, cleaning supplies, or bowling equipment; and that the exemption would reduce operational costs and allow more bowling centers to be opened.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the League of Kansas Municipalities, who stated sales tax exemptions erode the tax base and that providing an exemption to taxpayers of one industry would result in increased tax burden for other taxpayers. The opponent also stated the exemption would not provide any discernible public benefit, as bowling centers do not meet any of the thresholds historically used to justify such exemptions.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas County Commissioners Association and Americans for Prosperity Kansas.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by representative of the Kansas Association of Counties.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to limit the exemption to machinery and equipment and related purchases and certain specified materials.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities indicate the bill would provide an unknown net reduction to local sales tax collections.

According to the Department of Revenue, the bill, as amended, would decrease state revenues by \$1.7 million in FY 2026 and by \$1.9 million in subsequent fiscal years. Of those amounts, \$300,000 would be from the State Highway Fund and the balance from the State General Fund.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Taxation; sales tax; exemptions; bowling