

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2171

As Amended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2171 would require drivers to yield the right-of-way to a U.S. Postal Service vehicle that is obviously and actually engaged in the delivery or collection of mail along a highway. The driver of a vehicle approaching a stationary U.S. Postal Service vehicle would be required to move to a lane not adjacent to the vehicle when it is safe to do so. A law enforcement officer would be required to issue a warning citation until July 1, 2012. After that, the fine for violation would be \$50. The provisions would be part of the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic.

The bill also would make it unlawful to pass another vehicle within 100 feet of a stationary U.S. Postal Service vehicle. Current law makes it illegal to pass within that distance of any stationary authorized emergency vehicle and certain highway maintenance vehicles.

The bill would increase the fines for unlawful display of a license plate (covering a license plate) and for unlawful text messaging from \$60 to \$75 and would make a technical change to the uniform fine schedule.

Background

Representative Connie O'Brien testified in support of the original bill, and a mail carrier submitted written testimony. There was no other testimony.

*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>

The House Committee on Transportation amended the bill to increase the fines for unlawful display of a license plate and unlawful text messaging. Those violations were placed into law in 2010. 2010 Senate Sub. for HB 2039 increased by \$15 the fine assessed on all traffic infractions listed on the uniform fine schedule but, because of the timing of the bills, the two fines that would be amended in this bill were not included.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill states the bill could increase revenues from traffic fines, but no estimate was available.