

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2175

As Amended by Senate Committee on Transportation

Brief*

HB 2175 would repeal statutes establishing the Highway Advisory Commission and the Frontier Military Scenic Byway.

Background

Repealing the statutes establishing the Highway Advisory Commission would abolish the Commission. The bill was requested by the Highway Advisory Commission and supported by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Representatives of both presented testimony in favor of the bill to the House Committee on Government Efficiency and Fiscal Oversight. The Commission was established in 1975, and the Chairperson of the Commission said a more comprehensive entity with a multi-modal focus could appropriately address the different aspects of transportation rather than focusing exclusively on highways. The Commission Chairperson had provided similar testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee in support of SB 115, which also would abolish the Commission. A KDOT representative also testified in favor of HB 2175 to the Senate Committee on Transportation. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee on Transportation amended the bill to add the contents of HB 2230. That bill was requested and supported in testimony by representatives of the Frontier Military Scenic Byway Committee and KDOT. According to testimony, by repealing the current statutory authority, the

*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>

byway could be placed under the Kansas Byways Program and its name changed to the Frontier Military Historic Byway; that name change would be helpful in applications for federal grants, conferees said. A representative of KDOT, which administers the Kansas Byways Program, also testified in support of the bill. No opponents presented testimony. The byway runs from near Leavenworth generally southeast on K-5 to US-69, then south to the Oklahoma line on US-69.

The fiscal note for the original HB 2175 says savings of \$6,525, all from the State Highway Fund, would result in FY 2012 if the Commission were abolished. According to the fiscal note for HB 2230, KDOT could absorb any expenditures for signage within its existing resources for the Kansas Byways Program.