

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2318

As Amended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2318, as amended, would allow a motorcycle's headlamp to be wired with a headlamp modulation system and would allow certain types of lights on the sides of motorcycles. The bill would require the headlamp modulation system to meet federal standards. The bill would require lights on the sides of motorcycles to be visible only from the side and not from the front or rear and to not protrude beyond or outside the body or wheel of the motorcycle. The side lights could emit white, amber, or red light without glare.

Background

Representative Schroeder requested the bill and testified as a proponent. Written proponent testimony was submitted by a private citizen and from a representative of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association, who requested the bill restrict the colors of lights visible from the side to white, amber, or red without glare. Proponents stated modulating headlights and side lights would enhance the visibility of motorcycles to other vehicle operators and reduce the number of crashes.

The House Committee on Transportation amended the bill to restrict the colors of side lights to white, amber, or red without glare.

*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 federal requirements for headlamp modulation systems in 49 CFR 571.108, referenced in the bill, address topics including the rate of modulation (approximately 240 cycles per minute), voltage, the location of the lights on the motorcycle, and tests such a headlamp must pass before being offered for sale.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the bill would have no fiscal effect on the state budget.