

SESSION OF 2014

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2451**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2451 would increase the registration fee for any electrically propelled motor vehicle not used in commerce from \$14 to \$30.

Background

Representative Sloan requested the original bill and testified as a proponent. The original bill would have imposed an electricity highway fee on electricity sold at any motor vehicle electric recharge location in the state. The bill would have required the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to determine the fee and the Kansas Corporation Commission to approve it; the bill would have required the fee to be comparable to the motor fuel tax. The proponent said the bill would address inequity because plug-in electric vehicles do not pay fuel taxes and therefore do not contribute to the State Highway Fund or to maintenance of city and county roads and streets. The original bill would have required a separate electric meter for each recharge location; a representative of Westar and KCP&L said in opponent testimony the requirements for separate metering would be cost-prohibitive and, because the vehicles do not require special outlets, the fee would not be collected for some vehicles. A KDOT representative provided neutral testimony on declines in State Highway Fund receipts related to increased fuel efficiency and use of electric vehicles; 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>

agency estimated motor fuel tax lost due to hybrids and electric vehicles could be approximately \$1.4 million a year by 2020, based on current registration trends. There was no other testimony.

Representative Sloan also requested the substitute bill which was adopted by the House Committee. He stated electric vehicles weigh approximately the same as gasoline-powered vehicles, usually less than 4,500 pounds, and the registration fee for gasoline-powered passenger vehicles of that size is \$30.

The definition of "electric vehicle" for registration purposes is "a vehicle that is powered by an electric motor drawing current from rechargeable storage batteries or other portable electrical energy storage devices, provided the recharge energy must be drawn from a source off the vehicle, such as, but not limited to residential electric service or an electric vehicle charging station, also called an EV charging station, an electric recharging point, a charging point, EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment) or a public charging station" (KSA 2013 Supp. 8-126(g)).

This registration fee was last increased in 2002, from \$13 to \$14.

According to the fiscal note on the original bill, the Kansas Department of Revenue reported a total of 13,380 electric or hybrid vehicles registered in Kansas as of January 2014. The remainder of the fiscal note is not applicable to the substitute bill.