

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 72

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 72, as amended, would allow the Secretary of Transportation to authorize transit buses to be operated on the right shoulders of city connecting links and other highways in the state highway system in Wyandotte County. Under current law, the Secretary is allowed to authorize this use only in Johnson County. The bill would remove the requirement that the Secretary of Transportation and a representative of Johnson County report to the Legislature annually on the program.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Transportation at the request of Senator Wolf.

In the Senate Committee, a representative of the Johnson County Transportation Department spoke in favor of the bill, stating the Bus on Shoulder program increases the capacity of the interstate without a major reconstruction project and this benefit would be extended with the addition of Wyandotte County to the program. She noted restrictions on such operations would remain unchanged. A representative of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) spoke in favor of the bill, explaining the addition of Wyandotte County to the Bus on Shoulder program should result in a reduction of traffic congestion during commuting hours. A representative of the Unified Government of Wyandotte

*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>

County and Kansas City, Kansas also offered proponent testimony. No opponent or neutral testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill by striking the language that requires the Secretary of Transportation to report to the Legislature annually on the program.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, KDOT indicates it would provide adequate signage and shoulder pavement markings to inform motorists that Bus on Shoulder operations are authorized along this particular section of highway. The estimated fiscal effect for the signage, shoulder pavement markings, guardrail, and grading is \$245,000 in FY 2016. KDOT indicates the construction costs for the project would be reimbursed by Johnson County Transit. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill, as introduced, is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.