

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2174

As Amended by House Committee on Veterans
and Military

Brief*

HB 2174, as amended, would allow a person who is eligible to receive a U.S. military veteran license plate under Kansas statute, but does not meet the definition of “disabled veteran” under the statute authorizing disabled veteran license plates, to request a wheelchair emblem decal for such license plate upon submitting satisfactory proof to the Director of Vehicles that the person’s disability, condition, or impairment is permanent in nature. Current law defines “disabled veteran” as a person who has served in the armed forces of the United States and who is entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 50 percent as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or is entitled to compensation for the loss, or permanent loss of use of at least one hand or foot, or for permanent visual impairment of both eyes to a prescribed degree.

Additionally, the bill would clarify that a motor vehicle displaying a veteran license plate with a wheelchair emblem decal would receive all parking privileges associated with a disability, condition, or impairment when such vehicle is operated by, or used for the transportation of, a person with a disability.

*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>

Background

The bill was introduced in the House Committee on Veterans and Military. In the House Committee hearing, a disabled Navy veteran testified in favor of the bill. The proponent stated disabled veterans should not have to choose between displaying a veteran license plate or a license plate indicating the person has a disability.

Written-only proponent testimony was received from A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments (ABATE) of Kansas, a motorcycle lobbying organization, and a private citizen.

No other testimony was provided

The House Committee amended the bill to allow a veteran who does not meet the definition of “disabled veteran,” but who has a disability, to request a wheelchair decal for use on a veteran license plate, providing the veteran with parking privileges associated with a disability, condition, or impairment.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Department of Revenue states it would cost \$4,443 in state general funds to implement the provisions of the bill. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governors Budget Report*.