

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2481

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2481, as amended, would designate two portions of K-96 highway and a bridge in Sumner County in honor of deceased service members from Kansas:

- The PFC Henry Lee Fisher Memorial Highway would be the portion of K-96 highway within the city of Haven in Reno County;
- The 96th Infantry Division Memorial Highway would be the portion of K-96 highway from its junction with 56th Avenue then northwest on K-96 highway to its junction with Nickerson Road in Reno County; and
- The SrA Derek Scott Martin Memorial Bridge would be bridge No. 160-96-293.72, located on US-160 highway in Sumner County.

The bill would require the Secretary of Transportation to place suitable signs to indicate the designations once, pursuant to continuing law, sufficient moneys have been received from gifts and donations for the cost of placing such signs, plus an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray costs for future maintenance or replacement of the signs.

The bill would also remove from the designation of the State Fair Freeway the portion of K-96 highway to be designated as the PFC Henry Lee Fisher Memorial Highway.

*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

As amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation, the bill includes provisions of HB 2481, HB 2507, and HB 2575.

HB 2481 (PFC Henry Lee Fisher Memorial Highway)

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Seiwert.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Seiwert and a family member of Private First Class (PFC) Henry Lee Fisher.

According to testimony, PFC Fisher was born and raised in Haven, Kansas, and was killed in action while serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Insert the contents of HB 2575 (96th Infantry Division Memorial Highway provisions); and
- Remove the nickname “Deadeye” from the proposed name of the 96th Infantry Division Memorial Highway.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided on the contents inserted into HB 2481 from HB 2575. [Note: More information on that testimony is provided below.]

HB 2507 (SrA Derek Scott Martin Memorial Bridge)

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Rhiley.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Rhiley and three family members of Senior Airman (SrA) Derek Scott Martin. One of the family members also read testimony provided by a veteran who had served with and continued after service as a friend to SrA Martin.

According to testimony, SrA Martin was born in Wellington, Kansas, and served six years in the U.S. Air Force, from which he was honorably discharged after serving multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and being awarded a Purple Heart medal for his service. The proponents described his service to others, including to other wounded veterans.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by five family members and three friends of SrA Martin, four friends of members of his family, a mother of another deceased veteran, and representatives of 22 Too Many and Operation Creekside.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, Representative Rhiley and two family members of SrA Martin provided **proponent** testimony. They described his commitment to service, his family, and fellow veterans. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by five family members, three friends of SrA Martin, four friends of members of his family, a mother of another deceased veteran, and representatives of 22 Too Many and Operation Creekside.

No other testimony was provided.

HB 2575 (96th Infantry Division Memorial Highway)

HB 2575 was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representatives Seiwert, Murphy, Probst, and Waggoner.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Seiwert and a resident of Reno County whose father was killed during World War II while serving with the 96th Infantry Division.

According to testimony, many Kansans, including at least four Reno County residents, served in the 96th Infantry Division during World War II.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing on HB 2481 (to which HB 2575 had been added), Representative Seiwert provided **proponent** testimony on behalf of himself, Representatives Murphy, Probst, and Waggoner, and Senator Steffen.

Representative Seiwert provided information on the history of the 96th Infantry Division Memorial Highway. Written-only proponent testimony was received from a resident of Reno County whose father was killed during World War II while serving with the 96th Infantry Division.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal notes prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2481, HB 2507, and HB 2575, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) estimated the following costs to manufacture and install two signs indicating each of the designations and the amounts that KDOT would need to receive from donations to install the signs:

- HB 2481 (PFC Henry Lee Fisher Memorial Highway) — \$8,440 to manufacture and install two signs and \$12,660 would be required from donations;
- HB 2507 (SrA Derek Scott Martin Memorial Bridge) — \$2,280 to manufacture and install two signs and \$3,420 would be required from donations; and
- HB 2575 (96th Infantry Division Memorial Highway) — \$5,240 to manufacture and install two signs and \$7,860 would be required from donations.

KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$15,960 to the expenditure limitation for the agency operations account for FY 2025 (\$8,440 for the PFC Henry Lee Fisher Memorial Highway, \$2,280 for the SrA Derek Scott Martin Memorial Bridge, and \$5,240 for the 96th Infantry Division Memorial Bridge).

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill as amended is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Memorial highway; memorial bridge; Kansas Department of Transportation; veterans