

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2096

As Recommended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2096 would allow the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to authorize operation of transit buses on the right shoulders of state highways in Wyandotte County. Current law limits such operation to Johnson County.

The bill also would remove a requirement for an annual report on the program.

Background

The bill was requested by the Kansas Public Transit Association (Association). In the House Committee on Transportation hearing, the chief planning officer for the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority testified as a proponent, giving information on the program as implemented in Johnson County starting in 2012 and stating the bill would address traffic on a portion of I-35 that is very congested at rush hours. He noted the limitations on such operation and that the program is authorized only on certain portions of I-35.

Representatives of the Association, Johnson County Government, and the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) also testified in support of the bill, and a representative of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, provided written-only proponent testimony. No other testimony was provided.

*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>

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, KDOT estimates the bill would require additional expenditures of \$250,000 in FY 2018 for signage, shoulder pavement markings, guardrails, and grading on a proposed 3.6-mile corridor on I-35 in Wyandotte County. The fiscal note states the bill could be implemented with current staffing levels, but the agency operations expenditure limitation would need to be increased by \$250,000. According to testimony provided during the House Committee hearing, Johnson County has committed to fund the anticipated cost of implementation for FY 2018 of \$250,000 and the Secretary's approval of the operation would be contingent upon an agreement between KDOT and Johnson County to assume payment for those costs; however, a revised fiscal note was not provided to the House Committee before action was taken. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*.