

SESSION OF 2016

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2655**

As Amended by House Committee on Vision  
2020

**Brief\***

HB 2655, as amended, would provide for the placement of a memorial on the State Capitol grounds commemorating the laying of the building's original cornerstone; would authorize the Division of Facilities Management, Department of Administration, to approve the memorial's design and architectural drawings for construction; would authorize the Executive Director of the State Historical Society to receive grants, donations, gifts, contributions, or bequests for the construction and maintenance of the memorial to be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capitol Cornerstone Memorial Fund (Memorial Fund) established by the bill; and would authorize the State Historical Society to make expenditures from the Memorial Fund. The design would be intended to signify the importance of the occasion of laying the cornerstone and ensure the occasion is not forgotten.

Expenditures from the Memorial Fund would be authorized by the State Historical Society for use in constructing, repairing, and maintaining the memorial and for the purposes specified by the funds' providers. Each month, the preceding month's interest earnings based on the average daily balance of moneys in the Memorial Fund and the net earnings rate for the pooled money investment portfolio would be transferred from the State General Fund to the Memorial Fund.

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\*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**

At the House Committee on Vision 2020 hearing, two representatives of the MW Grand Lodge of Kansas AF and AM, testified in favor of the bill. The proponents provided information regarding the placement of the initial cornerstone at the Kansas Statehouse by Kansas Masons in 1866 and subsequent historical details regarding the cornerstone and its significance. The proponents stated the placement of the proposed cornerstone monument would be completed at no cost to the State, as the Masons of Kansas would provide funds to cover any of the costs associated with designing, manufacturing, setting, and maintaining the monument. Written proponent testimony was provided by former Kansas Governor Graves and a representative of Treanor Architects.

No opponent or neutral testimony was provided at the House Committee hearing.

The House Committee made a technical amendment to the bill.

According to the fiscal note on the original bill prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Kansas Historical Society indicates the fiscal effect on the agency's budget cannot be determined because the amount of donations the agency might receive and the size and scope of the memorial is unknown. The agency notes it may incur administrative costs associated with collecting donations and holding meetings to plan for the memorial.

The Department of Administration states approving the design and architectural drawings could be accomplished within current resources. The Department indicates a new cornerstone plaque would cost approximately \$10,200 and mounting it would cost an additional \$1,600. It is assumed all costs for construction and maintenance would be offset equally by resources in the Memorial Fund. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.