

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 68

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 68, as amended, would designate a portion of K-96 as the George Ablah Expressway, from the junction of K-96 and I-35, east to the junction of K-96 and Rock Road, in Sedgwick County. The bill would remove from that portion of K-96 the designation of Bonnie Huy Memorial Highway. The portion of K-96 from the junction of K-96 and Rock Road in Sedgwick County, east to the junction with I-35 would be designated as the Bonnie Huy Memorial Highway.

The bill also would designate the portion of K-7 through Lansing as the Kenneth W. Bernard Memorial Highway. The bill would remove from that portion of K-7 the designation of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Highway. The portion of K-7 north to the southern city limits of Lansing, then north from the northern city limits of Lansing to the eastern junction with US-159 would be designated as the Amelia Earhart Memorial Highway.

The bill would establish these provisions related to signage for the George Ablah Expressway and the Kenneth W. Bernard Memorial Highway:

- Require the Secretary of Transportation to place suitable signs to indicate the designations;
- Preclude the signs from being erected until the Secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for the

*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>.

cost of placing the signs and an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement of the signs; and

- Allow the Secretary to accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing suitable signs.

Background

The bill was requested by Senators O'Donnell, Peterson, and Wagle. In the Senate Transportation Committee, Senator O'Donnell spoke in favor of the bill, stating Mr. Ablah was a successful businessman who donated land to Wichita. Senator Peterson also spoke in favor of the bill, stating Mr. Ablah believed in the importance of infrastructure. There was no opponent or neutral testimony.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to include the contents of SB 139. The original version of SB 139, requested by Senator Fitzgerald, would have designated the portion of K-7 through Lansing as the Mayor Ken Bernard Memorial Highway. The Senate Committee amended the name designation to be consistent with requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, after consultation with an official of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDOT indicates two signs would need to be planned, manufactured, installed, and maintained for the George Ablah Expressway. The cost of the two signs, including installation, would be \$3,440. The additional 50 percent needed for future maintenance would be \$1,720. The agency would have to receive \$5,160 from donations before installing the signs. KDOT indicates there would be no fiscal effect from adjusting the boundaries for the Bonnie Huy Memorial Highway since those signs have not yet been placed.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDOT indicates two signs would need to be planned, manufactured, installed, and maintained for the Mayor Ken Bernard Memorial Highway. The costs of the two signs, including installation, would be \$3,920. The additional 50 percent needed for future maintenance would be \$1,960. KDOT would have to receive \$5,880 from donations before installing the signs. KDOT states the Amelia Earhart Memorial Highway already exists and the new designation breaks the continuity of the route, so two additional signs are needed. The cost of these additional signs, including installation, would be \$3,540.

If the bill is enacted, KDOT indicates it would need an increase in expenditure authority from the agency operations account of the State Highway Fund. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.