

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2298**

As Agreed to April 3, 2023

**Brief\***

HB 2298 would designate two portions of highways in honor of deceased Kansans:

- The Officer Donald Burton Gamblin Jr Memorial Highway would be the portion of I-435 in Johnson County from its junction with Shawnee Mission Parkway north to its junction with Holliday Drive; and
- The Robert Lessen Memorial Highway would be the portion of US-69 in Crawford County from its junction with K-47 in Crawford County to its junction with 650th Avenue.

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.

**Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to the provisions of HB 2298, as amended by the House Committee on Transportation, and agreed to add the contents of HB 2014, as introduced.

**Background**

***HB 2298 (Officer Donald Burton Gamblin Jr Memorial Highway)***

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

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by the Shawnee Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief of Miami County Emergency Medical Services, who is a son of Donald Gamblin, Jr. According to testimony, Officer Gamblin served with the Shawnee Police Department and was a U.S. Army veteran. He was killed by an intoxicated motorist on I-435 during a traffic stop, in July 1991.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to make Holliday Drive, and not Johnson Drive, the northern boundary of the memorial highway portion of I-435. [Note: The amendment was retained by the Conference Committee.]

### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by the Shawnee Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief of Miami County Emergency Medical Services. The proponents stated that Officer Gamblin's death occurred on I-435 while he was on duty with the Shawnee Police Department.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make it effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [Note: The amendment was not retained by the Conference Committee.]

### ***HB 2014 (Robert Lessen Memorial Highway)***

The bill was introduced by Representative Collins.

### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Collins. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by family members of Robert Lessen. No other testimony was provided.

According to testimony, Robert Lessen was born in Arma, Kansas, where he also lived as an adult and owned and worked in an insurance agency; served on the committee working for the improvement and expansion of US-69 throughout the 1960s; and was a U.S. Army veteran who served in World War II and the Korean War.

### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Collins, who stated this highway designation was requested by family members of Robert Lessen. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by family members of Robert Lessen. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make it effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [Note: The amendment was not retained by the Conference Committee.]

## **Fiscal Information**

### ***HB 2298 (Officer Donald Burton Gamblin Jr Memorial Highway)***

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) estimates it would cost \$16,160 to manufacture and install two signs indicating the designation, and a total of \$24,240 would need to be received from donations to install the signs. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$16,160 to the expenditure limitation for the agency operations account for FY 2024. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of HB 2298 is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

### ***HB 2014 (Robert Lessen Memorial Highway)***

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDOT estimates it would cost \$4,480 to manufacture and install two signs indicating the designation and a total of \$6,720 would need to be received from donations to install the signs. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$4,480 to the expenditure limitation for the agency operations account for FY 2024. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of HB 2014 is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Memorial highway; department of transportation; signage

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