

SESSION OF 2023

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2160**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Brief\***

HB 2160, as amended, would amend secured load requirements for trucks, trailers, and semitrailers hauling cotton bales under certain conditions. The bill would clarify the cotton bales could be transported by the cotton producer intrastate from the place of production or storage to a market, place of storage, or place of use if:

- The cotton bales are fully loaded from front to back in a single layer, and
- The truck, trailer, or semitrailer is equipped with cradles, and stakes or side posts that are no less than 12 inches high.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Agriculture at the request of Representative Hoffman.

***House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources***

In the House Committee hearing, representatives of Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Farm Bureau, and a private citizen testified as **proponents** of the bill, indicating that specialized equipment would allow producers to get their product moved efficiently and safely.

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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>

**Opponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Corporation Commission, indicating that federal highway funds were at risk for noncompliance with federal safety standards. Written opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee adopted amendments to:

- Allow the producer an unlimited range intrastate to transport the cotton bales rather than the proposed 150 mile range; and
- Make adjustments to the minimum height of the stakes/side posts of the truck, trailer, or semitrailer.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Highway Patrol indicated enactment of the bill would make the state noncompliant with federal safety standards, causing up to \$17,005,622 of federal funds to be withheld and additional amounts in subsequent fiscal years.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Transportation, and Kansas Corporation Commission indicate enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Cotton bales; traffic regulations; intrastate