

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 359

As Amended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 359, as amended, would authorize issuance of six license plates on and after January 1, 2025:

- Kansas City Chiefs (Chiefs);
- Sporting Kansas City (Sporting KC);
- Sedgwick County Zoo;
- Kansas City Royals (Royals);
- Kansas City Current (KC Current); and
- Topeka Zoo.

Each of these distinctive license plates could be issued to a vehicle owner or lessee for use on a passenger vehicle or truck registered for a gross weight of no more than 20,000 pounds.

The bill would require the vehicle owner or lessee to annually apply to the sponsor no less than 60 days prior to the person's renewal of registration date for use of the logo and pay an annual logo use royalty payment fee of \$25 up to \$100 to the sponsors. The fee would be paid to the following entities for the respective license plates:

*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>

- For the Chiefs license plate, to the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc., to be paid to the Hunt Family Foundation;
- For the Sporting KC license plate, to OnGoal, LLC, to be paid to the Kansas City Soccer Foundation in support of the Victory Project;
- For the Sedgwick County Zoo license plate, to be paid via the State Treasurer to the Sedgwick County Zoological Society (Society);
- For the Royals license plate, to be paid to the Kansas City Royals Foundation;
- For the KC Current license plate, to be paid to the United Way of Greater Kansas City; and
- For the Topeka Zoo license plate, to be paid to the Friends of the Topeka Zoo, Inc.

The bill would require, for each of these plates, an initial commitment for 250 plates and the sponsors to pay up to \$5,000 in development costs as required in continuing law (KSA 8-1,141). Initial and renewal registrations would be made through the county treasurer. The plates would not be transferable to any other person, but the bill would authorize the Director of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), to transfer the plate from a leased to a purchased vehicle.

The bill would require the sponsoring organizations to design the plates, with the approval of the Director of Vehicles, and to provide to all county treasurers an email address for contacting the sponsor about the application process or the status of an application for the plate.

The bill would require, for each of the plates, the applicant to consent to the release of certain information by the Division of Vehicles, KDOR, including applicant name,

address, royalty payment amount, plate number, and vehicle type to the sponsor and the State Treasurer.

Background

As amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation, the bill would include provisions of SB 359 (Chiefs), SB 342 (Sedgwick County Zoo), and SB 400 (Sporting KC).

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to add provisions regarding the Royals and the KC Current license plates. The House Committee on Transportation amended the bill to add provisions regarding the Topeka Zoo license plate.

SB 359 (Chiefs License Plate)

SB 359 was introduced by Senator Warren and 18 additional senators.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing on SB 359, Senator Warren provided **proponent** testimony, stating that supporting a local professional team can be unifying. The Chiefs plate would provide funds to the Hunt Family Foundation which provides grants focusing on children's health and wellness and family crisis support and is committed to the legacy of the Chiefs football team and the National Football League. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Chief Financial Officer of the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club. No other testimony was provided.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, Senator Warren and representatives of the KC Current, Sedgwick County Zoo, Friends of the Topeka Zoo, Victory Project, and Sporting KC provided **proponent** testimony. Senator Sykes provided written-only proponent testimony. The representative of the Friends of the Topeka Zoo requested consideration of an amendment to the bill to include a Topeka Zoo license plate.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to add provisions regarding the Topeka Zoo license plate and to change the recipient of payments for the Royals license plate from a charity approved by the Royals to the Kansas City Royals Foundation.

SB 342 (Sedgwick County Zoo License Plate)

SB 342 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Blasi.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing on SB 342, a representative of the Sedgwick County Zoo provided **proponent** testimony, who provided the history of the Zoo, the status of the number of animals and species in the Zoo, and the benefits of the Zoo for the surrounding area and Kansas at large. No other testimony was provided.

SB 400 (Sporting KC License Plate)

SB 400 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Transportation at the request of a representative from Sporting KC.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing on SB 400, representatives of Sporting KC and the Victory Project provided **proponent** testimony. The proponents stated how the funds collected from the Sporting KC license plate would be provided to the Victory Project which helps children with financial and physical challenges to participate in soccer clubs through Soccer-for-All grants, attend Major League Soccer matches, and interact with Sporting KC team members. The Victory Project also provides the Emerging Sports Leaders Scholarship for postsecondary education. The proponents also noted that several 2026 World Cup matches will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, providing regional economic benefits. No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to add provisions regarding the Royals and the KC Current license plates.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal notes from the Division of the Budget on SB 349, SB 342, and SB 400, as introduced, KDOR:

- Estimates the enactment of each of the three bills included in SB 359, as amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation, would increase its expenditures by \$2,340 in FY 2025 for administrative costs relate to designing and manufacturing the new license plate;
- Would collect, for each, a fee of up to \$5,000 for plate development from the sponsor; and

- Indicates that each of these license plates would be subject to the \$40 special plate application fee and the \$40 personalized plate application fee if the applicant chooses to personalize the license plate.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of SB 359, as amended, is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

An updated fiscal note incorporating the provisions added by the Senate Committee of the Whole and the House Committee on Transportation was not immediately available.

Distinctive license plates; Kansas City Chiefs; Sedgwick County Zoo; Sporting Kansas City; Kansas City Royals; Kansas City Current; Topeka Zoo; zoo; sports