

Highway Designations; Allow Speed Limit Increase on Certain Highways; HB 2610

HB 2610 designates portions of highways to honor several Kansans and allows the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to increase speed limits on certain rural highways.

Highway designations. The bill designates these interchanges and portions of highway:

- The junction of I-70 and Commerce Parkway in Ellis County, on the eastern edge of Hays, as the Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Carter Fallen Veterans Memorial Interchange, to honor a pilot who died in Afghanistan in 2011 when his helicopter was shot down;
- US-400 in Labette County, between Queens Road and Udall Road near Parsons, as the John Troy, Pete Hughes, and Earl Seifert Highway, to honor gentlemen who were instrumental in the effort to have US-160 redesignated as US-400;
- The junction of I-235 and Central Avenue in Sedgwick County, as the Captain Chris Norgren Memorial Interchange, to honor a pilot who died in Nepal while delivering relief supplies in 2015; and
- K-148 from the intersection with 23rd Road in Washington County north to the Nebraska state line, as the SGT Lavern W Tegtmeier Memorial Highway, to honor the first soldier from Washington County to die in the Vietnam War, in 1968.

The bill requires the Secretary to place signs in the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to indicate the designations, after sufficient moneys are received from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for the cost of placing such signs and an additional 50.0 percent of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement costs of such signs.

Speed limits. The bill authorizes the Secretary to increase the speed limit on certain highways outside of an urban district by 5 miles per hour (mph). The highways on which speed limits could be increased from 65 mph to 70 mph are those that are not separated multilane highways (current speed limit of 75 mph) or any county or township highway (current speed limit of 55 mph). The bill requires the Secretary to consider, before increasing any such speed limit, the effects of certain violations of maximum speed limits not being construed as moving traffic violations or considered for liability insurance.