

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2096

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2096, as amended, would allow the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to authorize operation of transit buses on the right shoulders of state highways in Wyandotte County. Current law limits such operation to Johnson County.

The bill would replace the reporting requirement in current law with a requirement the Secretary and persons designated by the boards of commissioners of Johnson and Wyandotte counties report to the Legislature on the implementation and operation of the program on or before March 1 in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Under current law, the Secretary and persons designated by the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners must report annually, before the tenth day of each regular session.

Background

The bill was requested by the Kansas Public Transit Association (Association). In the House Committee on Transportation hearing, the Chief Planning Officer for the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) testified as a proponent, giving information on the program as implemented in Johnson County starting in 2012 and stating the bill would address traffic on a portion of I-35 that is very congested at rush hours. He noted the limitations on such operation and that the program is authorized only on certain portions of I-35.

*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>

Representatives of the Association, Johnson County Government, and the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) also testified in support of the bill, and a representative of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, provided written-only proponent testimony. No other testimony was provided.

In the Senate Committee on Transportation hearing, the Chief Planning Officer for the KCATA and a representative of the Association testified as proponents. Written-only proponent testimony was received from the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, and KDOT. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to continue annual reports on the program from the Secretary and Johnson County, add Wyandotte County to the entities reporting on the program, change the due date of the report, and require annual reporting through 2020.

According to the revised fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, KDOT estimates enactment of the bill would require additional expenditures of \$250,000 in FY 2018 for signage, shoulder pavement markings, guardrails, and grading on a proposed 3.6-mile corridor on I-35 in Wyandotte County. The fiscal note states the bill could be implemented with current staffing levels, but the agency operations expenditure limitation would need to be increased by \$250,000. KDOT has been notified it would be reimbursed for those costs by Johnson County, which is the transit provider for the area. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*.