

SESSION OF 2017

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2174**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

Senate Sub. for HB 2174 would establish two distinctive license plates, authorize decals on distinctive license plates to indicate transportation of a person with a disability, and authorize additional decals indicating military honors on certain military-related distinctive license plates.

License Plates

Autism awareness. The bill would authorize an autism awareness license plate on and after January 1, 2018, for use on a passenger vehicle or truck registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less. The bill would allow any owner or lessee to apply for the new plate after paying annual vehicle registration fees and a logo use royalty fee of between \$25 and \$100 to the organization Autism Hope for Families, Inc. Royalties would be deposited into the Autism Awareness Royalty Fund, which the bill would create. Payments from the Autism Awareness Royalty Fund would be made on a monthly basis to the appropriate designee of the Autism Hope for Families, Inc.

Kansas 4-H Foundation. The bill would authorize a Kansas 4-H Foundation license plate on and after January 1, 2018, for use on a passenger vehicle or truck registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less. The bill would allow any owner or lessee to apply for the new plate after paying

*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>

annual vehicle registration fees and a logo use royalty fee of between \$25 and \$100 to the Kansas 4-H Foundation, Inc. Royalties would be deposited into the Kansas 4-H Foundation Royalty Fund, which the bill would create. Payments from the Kansas 4-H Foundation Royalty Fund would be made on a monthly basis to the appropriate designee of the Kansas 4-H Foundation, Inc.

Decals for License Plates

Indicating disability. On and after January 1, 2018, the bill would authorize a wheelchair emblem decal to be affixed to a distinctive license plate and a permanent placard as an alternative to indicate the vehicle transports a person with a permanent disability. Under current law, the options are a permanent placard or a permanent placard and a special license plate. An individual identification card would also be issued to accompany the permanent placard and wheelchair emblem decal; under current law, the identification card is issued to anyone with a permanent placard or permanent placard and a special license plate.

Indicating military honors. The bill would expand eligibility to purchase license plate decals indicating certain military honors to those persons issued a distinctive military license plate who have received an Army of Occupation Medal or Navy Occupation Service Medal upon providing satisfactory proof of receiving such medal to the Director of Vehicles.

Background

The substitute bill would replace the former provisions of HB 2174 and contain provisions from HB 2148, which itself contains provisions originally in HB 2281, and from Sub. for HB 2257.

HB 2174—Decal to Indicate Disability

The bill was introduced in the House Committee on Veterans and Military. In the House Committee hearing, a disabled Navy veteran testified in favor of the bill. The proponent stated disabled veterans should not have to choose between displaying a veteran license plate or a license plate indicating the person has a disability.

Written-only proponent testimony was received from A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments (ABATE) of Kansas, a motorcycle lobbying organization, and a private citizen. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to allow a veteran who does not meet the definition of “disabled veteran,” but who has a disability, to request a wheelchair decal for use on a veteran license plate, providing the veteran with parking privileges associated with a disability, condition, or impairment.

In the Senate Committee on Transportation hearing, testimony was received from a representative of ABATE and from a private citizen, who both asked that veterans with non-service-related disabilities be able to obtain veterans license plates that indicate disability and not be forced to choose between a veterans license plate and a disability license plate. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee recommended a substitute bill to authorize a disability emblem decal on any distinctive license plate and to make related technical changes.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2174, as introduced, the Department of Revenue (Department) states it would cost \$4,443 in state general funds to implement the provisions of the bill. No fiscal note was available on the substitute bill when the Senate Committee took action. Any fiscal effect associated with

enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*.

HB 2148—License Plates

Representative Carlin requested the bill and spoke as a proponent in the House Committee on Transportation and Senate Committee on Transportation hearings. Also testifying as a proponent in both hearings was a representative of Autism Hope for Families, Inc. Written-only testimony was received from a board-certified behavior analyst. According to testimony, the organization seeks to increase awareness of autism and access to specialized services for children with autism and their families, especially in underserved portions of the state. No other testimony was provided regarding autism awareness license plates.

The House Committee amended the bill to add the contents of HB 2281.

HB 2281

The bill was requested by Representative Rahjes, who testified as a proponent in the House Committee on Transportation hearing. Also testifying as a proponent was a member of the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council. The proponents described the work of 4-H and the ways in which the organization educates youth. No other testimony was provided.

Representative Rahjes also testified as a proponent of HB 2148, as amended by the House Committee, in the Senate Committee hearing.

Fiscal Effects

According to the fiscal notes prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2148 and HB 2281, the Department

indicates the new license plates would be subject to license plate fees and could generate \$100,000 each in revenue to be deposited into the State Highway Fund. Costs for the autism awareness license plate were estimated at a total of \$15,981: \$500 for titles and registration, \$650 for system design, \$2,081 for testing, and \$12,750 for production of 2,500 plates for passenger vehicles. Costs for the Kansas 4-H Foundation license plate were estimated at a total of \$17,034: \$600 for titles and registration, \$572 for system design, \$2,882 for testing and quality assurance, and \$12,750 for production of 2,500 plates for passenger vehicles.

Under continuing law, a sponsoring organization must submit a nonrefundable amount not to exceed \$20,000 to the Division of Vehicles to defray costs for developing a distinctive license plate. The Department further indicates revenues and expenditures would be one-time events, and it is not possible to predict when these events would occur because production of either type of plate cannot begin until the Department has a list of 500 initial customers. Any fiscal effect associated with the bills is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sub. for HB 2257—Decals Indicating Military Honors

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of Representative Garber. In the House Committee hearing, an Army of Occupation Medal recipient testified in support of the bill. Representative Garber and the Sabetha Memorial Post 7285 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars provided written-only testimony in support of the bill. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee recommended removal of the contents of HB 2257 and creation of a substitute bill that incorporates language authorizing license plate decals for those who have been awarded the Army of Occupation Medal or Navy Occupation Service Medal. The bill, as introduced,

would have authorized the issuance of Armed Services Occupation Medal license plates to recipients of the Army of Occupation Medal or the Navy Occupation Service Medal.

The House Committee of the Whole adopted a technical amendment to clarify satisfactory proof of receiving such a medal would be required to request the decal.

In the Senate Committee on Transportation hearing, an Army veteran who had served in occupied territory testified in support of the bill. Written-only proponent testimony was received from Representative Garber. No other testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2257, as introduced (which would have authorized an armed services occupation service medal license plate), the Department indicates enactment of the bill could generate \$72,300 in license plate fee revenue to be deposited into the State Highway Fund. The Department estimates 1,700 plates would be registered for automobiles and 800 for motorcycles, with an estimated cost of production of \$14,751. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*. A fiscal note was not available for the substitute bill when the Senate Committee added its contents to Senate Sub. for HB 2174.