

SESSION OF 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 291

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 291 would extend the designation of the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway to include US-36 from the east city limits of the city of Washington to the Colorado state line. Under current law, the designation applies to US-36 only in Smith County.

Background

The bill was requested by Senator Bowers, who also testified as a proponent in the Senate Committee on Transportation hearing. Also providing proponent testimony was the Director of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Office and the Sixth District Commander and the Department Adjutant of The American Legion, Department of Kansas. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the United States 36 Highway Association, Inc.

No neutral or opponent testimony was presented.

According to testimony, the initial designation, added to law in 2006, honored a resident of Smith Center, a World War I veteran, believed to be the oldest U.S. Marine living in Kansas at that time. Conferees noted The American Legion was created in 1919 as a result of World War I and the organization's willingness to raise funds for this designation.

*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>

Under continuing law, the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) is required to place suitable signs to indicate such designation. However, the Secretary is precluded from placing these signs until the Secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for the cost of placing such signs, plus an additional 50.0 percent of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement of the signs. The Secretary may accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing suitable signs. The bill would require the Secretary to place highway signs along the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to indicate the designation of the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway once the reimbursement requirements are met.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) estimates it would cost \$2,350 to move two existing signs that designate the highway. Including an additional 50.0 percent of the initial cost to defray future sign maintenance, the Secretary would need to receive a total of \$3,525 from donations to install the signs. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$2,350 to an expenditure limitation for the agency operations account in FY 2019. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2019 Governor's Budget Report*.