

State of Kansas  
House of Representatives

State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 296-3971  
kristey.williams@house.ks.gov



506 Stone Lake Court  
Augusta, Kansas 67010  
(316) 775-1440  
kristeywilliams@yahoo.com

Kristey S. Williams  
Representative, 77th District

RE: Proponent WRITTEN testimony for SB 18– Military Surplus Vehicles

January 28, 2021

Dear Honorable Chairman Petersen and Senate Transportation Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of SB 18 (similar to HB 2014), a bill relating to the registration and regulation of military surplus vehicles. SB 18, which is almost identical to the amended HB 2420 bill, passed out unanimously by the House in 2021, passed in the Senate Transportation Committee, and then due to Covid – was just one of our legislative ‘casualties’ when it officially died on the Senate Floor on May 21, 2020 (the end of our biennial legislative session).

The bill’s origin was inspired by one of Augusta’s local entrepreneurs who related to me a problem with licensing military vehicles in Kansas. Though the U.S. Military may sell surplus vehicles in Kansas, there is no statute that allows these purchased vehicles to be driven on Kansas roadways. For this local entrepreneur who has developed a start-up business around rehabbing and servicing these vehicles – this was a serious economic disincentive for both buyers of the refurbished military vehicles, specifically Humvees, and sellers. Currently, Global Parts affiliated industries are among our largest private employers in the Augusta community. Without a change in Kansas statutes, this part of Global’s growing business, and others like it, would be restricted by unnecessary and antiquated laws that simply do not support this emerging industry.

The vehicles being updated and made available to civilians are road safe and have the necessary safety features as required by law to safely operate. In fact, the Hummers and the Humvees have the same structural frames – the difference comes down to original purpose and cost to own. To ensure their safety and readiness for public roads, an inspection is required before a license is provided.

It’s my hope, in 2021, our Legislature will have the opportunity to finish the work we began in 2020 and update our statutes to allow the licensing of approved military surplus vehicles, upon passing inspection, for a special interest plate. It’s an economic win for our State, for our communities, and for our families interested in this unique investment – and at the same time, it supports our U.S. Military.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide positive testimony for SB 18.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kristey Williams