

SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 229

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 229 would authorize a City of Topeka license plate for use on a passenger vehicle or a truck registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less, for issuance on or after January 1, 2024.

The license plate would display an image of the City of Topeka flag. The bill would require a person desiring this plate to make a flag image payment, which would be paid to the Greater Topeka Partnership Inc. as the city's designee. The bill would require a change of designee to be by mutual agreement of the City of Topeka and the Greater Topeka Partnership.

The bill would require the vehicle owner or lessee to apply for the new license plate at least 60 days prior to their renewal of registration date, on a form provided by the Director of Vehicles (Director), Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), after making a flag image payment of between \$25 and \$100 to the county treasurer. Payment of the regular license fee would also be required.

The registration or license plate would not be transferable to any other person. The bill would authorize the Director to approve transfer of the plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle. The design of the plate would be subject to approval by the Director.

*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>

The bill would state that the City of Topeka flag was designed through a community input process managed by the Greater Topeka Partnership, adopted by the city's governing body in 2019, and no individual or entity has intellectual property rights regarding use of its image.

Under continuing law, City of Topeka license plates will not be issued unless there is a guarantee of an initial issuance of least 250 license plates, and a nonrefundable amount not to exceed \$5,000 is submitted to defray costs of the Division of Vehicles (Division), KDOR, for developing the distinctive license plate. Continuing law also requires the Division to produce this distinctive license plate for a motorcycle upon request.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Commerce at the request of Senator O'Shea. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the City of Topeka, Forge Young Talent, and Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, and by a private citizen. The proponents described the symbolism of the City of Topeka flag and noted the flag's significance in developing civic pride.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by Senator O'Shea.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, KDOR estimates enactment of the bill would increase FY 2024 revenues by \$10,000, of which \$9,813 would be remitted to the State Highway Fund and \$187 would be retained by county treasurers. KDOR estimates the bill would increase revenues to the Distinctive License Plate Fund by \$5,000, to defray the cost to develop the new license plate. KDOR estimates that enactment of the bill would increase expenditures by \$3,750 in FY 2024 for costs related to designing and manufacturing the new plate. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Distinctive license plate; flags; Topeka