

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2503

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2503 would direct \$2 of each Division of Vehicles modernization surcharge collected on and after July 1, 2016, to the Kansas Highway Patrol Staffing and Training Fund that would be created by the bill. Expenditures from the Fund would be used by the Patrol to increase employment and retain personnel at the Patrol. Expenditures would be made in accordance with appropriation acts. The bill would state it is the intent of the Legislature that the funds and moneys deposited in the Fund be used only to increase employment and retain personnel at the Patrol.

Background

In the hearing before the House Committee on Transportation, proponent testimony from the Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol included information on the steady decline in the number of troopers since 2006 even though greater numbers are authorized, steps the Patrol has taken to stabilize or increase the number of troopers, the types of law enforcement activities troopers provide across the state, and the numbers of troopers in neighboring states. The Superintendent said enactment of the bill would allow the Patrol to increase the number of troopers by as many as 75 by the end of FY 2018.

Representatives of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs' Association, the Kansas State Troopers Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers

*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>

Association also provided proponent testimony. They provided information on challenges faced by the Patrol and how the Patrol assists local agencies.

A representative of the Kansas Farm Bureau submitted written testimony opposing the bill, stating vehicle registration fees should be channeled into transportation programs, and the fee would have a disproportionate impact on farmers and ranchers.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to direct \$2 of the \$4 Division of Vehicles modernization surcharge to the Kansas Highway Patrol Staffing and Training Fund, as of July 1, 2016. Under current law, the \$4 fee is directed to the State Highway Fund. It also amended the bill to specify moneys in the Kansas Highway Patrol Staffing and Training Fund should be used for increasing employment and retaining Patrol personnel and for no other purposes.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, there were 2,697,486 vehicle registrations in calendar year 2015, which would have generated \$5,394,972 if the \$2 surcharge had been in place. The fiscal note also states the Department of Revenue estimates additional expenditures of \$7,360 from agency fee funds for administrative costs and setting up the surcharge in the Motor Vehicle Registration System. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.