

SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2346

As Amended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2346 would authorize a “back the blue” distinctive license plate to be issued to any Kansas resident who is an owner or lessee of one or more passenger vehicles or trucks registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less, beginning January 1, 2024.

The bill would require a \$30 law enforcement support fee for each plate issued to support the Kansas Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), Inc.

An applicant for the license plate could apply for the license plate beginning 60 days prior to their renewal of registration date on a form designated by the Director of Vehicles. No license plate or registration issued pursuant to the bill would be transferable to any other person, but the Director could transfer the distinctive license plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

The bill also would require renewals of registrations to be made annually in the manner provided in continuing law. No renewal would be allowed until an applicant has paid the county treasurer the law enforcement support fee and, if payment of the support fee is not made at the time of registration, the applicant would be required to return the license plate to the treasurer of the county of the person’s residence.

The bill would require COPS to provide an email address to all county treasurers for an applicant to call for

*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>

information concerning the application process or the status of the license plate application.

The bill would require the license plate to have a background design with an emblem or colors that designate the plate as a back the blue license plate.

As a condition of receiving the license plate or subsequent registration renewal, the applicant would be required to provide consent to the Division authorizing release of the applicant's name, address, law enforcement support fee payment amount, plate number, and vehicle type to the State Treasurer and COPS.

The bill would require the State Treasurer to disburse law enforcement support fees to COPS on a monthly basis.

The back the blue plates established by the bill would be exempt from the requirement for distinctive license plate sponsors to submit a nonrefundable amount of \$5,000 to defray the Division's costs of developing the plates, but manufacturing and issuance of the plates would be conditioned upon receipt of a minimum order of 100 plates with payment of the personalized license plate fee as specified in continuing law. A transfer of \$4,000 from the State Highway Fund to the Distinctive License Plate Fund would be made once the minimum number of paid orders has been received. Continuing law also would require the Division to produce this distinctive license plate for a motorcycle upon request by the sponsoring organization.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Melton.

House Committee on Transportation

At the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas City, Kansas,

Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #4, who stated the bill would allow Kansans to show support for law enforcement officers and would provide funding to support law enforcement officer training. [Note: The bill, as introduced, would have designated a law enforcement training support fee for each plate issued to be deposited into the Local Law Enforcement Training Reimbursement Fund.]

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Make COPS the benefiting entity, and
- Exempt the back the blue license plate from the plate development fee and make it subject to a minimum paid order requirement of 100 orders prior to manufacture and issuance.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the bill would increase Department of Revenue (Department) expenditures by \$2,500 in FY 2024 for administrative costs related to designing and manufacturing the new plate. The Department estimates the bill would increase revenues to the State Highway Fund by \$9,813, based on an initial issuance of 250 license plates. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Distinctive license plates; Back the Blue; motor vehicles