

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2170

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2170, as amended, would require a bicycle in use between sunrise and sunset to be equipped on the rear with a red reflector visible from 100 feet to 600 feet, a lamp that emits a red light visible from 500 feet, or the operator wearing a device that emits a red or amber light visible from 500 feet. Current law requires both a reflector and a red light visible from the rear and also a lamp on the front emitting white light.

The bill would remove references to equipment approval by the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary).

Background

The Undersheriff of Lyon County testified in support of the bill in the House Committee on Transportation and the Senate Committee on Transportation hearings. He stated a light-emitting device (lamp) is the best option when cycling in low light or night conditions and using such a device is common practice for cyclists in Kansas. He also noted the absence of either a reflector or a light-emitting device has been used in the defense of vehicle drivers who have struck cyclists from behind. No other testimony was presented.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to include an additional option for bicycle use at nighttime to permit an operator wearing clothing that emits light visible from 500 feet.

*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The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to remove outdated language regarding the Secretary's approval of equipment, replace "at nighttime" with "between sunrise and sunset," authorize the operator to wear a device that emits light rather than clothing that emits light, and specify the light emitted by a device worn by the operator must be red or amber.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, enactment of the bill, as introduced, would have no fiscal effect.