

SESSION OF 2019

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2070**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Transportation

**Brief\***

HB 2070 would designate the portion of US-75 from the junction of US-75 and NW 46<sup>th</sup> Street in Shawnee County to the junction of US-75 and I-70 as the John Armstrong Memorial Highway. The bill would require the Secretary of Transportation to place signs along the highway right-of-way at the proper intervals to indicate the highway's designation as the John Armstrong Memorial Highway.

The bill would remove this portion of US-75 from designation as the Purple Heart/Combat Wounded Veterans Highway.

**Background**

The bill was introduced in the House Committee on Transportation by Representative Francis on behalf of Representative Patton on January 22, 2019.

In the House Committee hearing on February 6, 2019, Representative Patton testified as a proponent to introduce both the bill and the proponents from Seaman High School. A teacher and several students from Seaman High School testified as proponents. The proponent testimony focused on Kansas history and John Armstrong's abolitionist work as both a soldier in the Civil War and a member of the Underground Railroad in Kansas. The proponents from Seaman High School stated their intentions to raise funds for

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\*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 signage designating the portion of US-75 as the John Armstrong Memorial Highway. No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

The House Committee recommended the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

The designation of US-75 as the Purple Heart/Combat Wounded Veterans Highway generally extends from the Nebraska state line to the Oklahoma state line, with four exceptions in current law.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Kansas Department of Transportation (Department) indicates it is statutorily required (KSA 68-10,114) to receive a total of \$4,890 in donations to manufacture, install, and conduct maintenance on two signs along US-75 to designate that portion of the highway as the John Armstrong Memorial Highway. This cost includes \$3,260 to manufacture and install the signs and an additional 50.0 percent of the initial cost that is required before the Department can install the signs. The Department indicates the bill would require an increase of \$3,260 in expenditure limitation for the agency operations account in FY 2020. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.