

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2478**

As Agreed to March 29, 2022

**Brief\***

HB 2478 would designate four portions of highway in honor of deceased public servants, a bridge in Pittsburg in honor of a private citizen, and two bridges in Cherokee County in honor of veterans.

The bill would make the following bridge designations:

- The Dennis Crain Memorial Bridge, a bridge on K-126 between North Grand Street and North Rouse Street in Pittsburg; and
- The Veterans Memorial Bridge, regarding two bridges, eastbound and westbound spans on K-66 over the Spring River in Cherokee County;
  - Bridge No. 0011-B0072; and
  - Bridge No. 0011-B0005.

The bill would make the following highway designations:

- The Senator Tom R Van Sickle Memorial Highway, a portion of US-69 from its northern junction with US-54 in Bourbon County, then north to the Linn County line;
- The AMM2c Walter Scott Brown Memorial Highway, a portion of US-69 from the northern junction of US-69 and K-52 in Linn County, then south to the southern junction of US-69 and K-52;
- The SGT Evan S Parker Memorial Highway, a portion of US-166 from the junction of US-166 with US-81 in Sumner County, then east to the western city limits of Arkansas City in Cowley County; and
- The PFC Shane Austin Memorial Highway, a portion of US-56 from the northeastern city limits of Edgerton to the southwestern city limits of Gardner in Johnson County.

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

The bill would require, for each designation, suitable signs to be erected upon the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) receiving sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for those costs. Under continuing law, the Secretary must receive reimbursement for the cost of placing such signs and an additional 50 percent of the initial cost from gifts and donations to defray future maintenance or replacement costs of such signs.

### **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to the provisions of HB 2478, as amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation.

The Conference Committee further agreed to add the contents of two bills:

- SB 313, as amended by the House Committee on Transportation, regarding designation for two portions of highway and a bridge; and
- SB 446 regarding the designation of three bridges in Cherokee County, amended to remove the designation of the bridge on US-166.

### **Background**

HB 2478, as amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation, contained the provisions of HB 2458. The Conference Committee agreed to amend and include the contents of SB 446 and include the contents of SB 313.

### ***HB 2478 – SGT Evan S Parker Memorial Highway***

The bill was introduced by Representative Rhiley.

#### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, the mother of SGT Parker provided **proponent** testimony. The proponent stated SGT Parker was born in Wichita and raised in South Haven. SGT Parker enlisted in the U.S. Army, deployed to Iraq in 2004, and died in 2005 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Parker received several meritorious awards, including two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star. No other testimony was provided.

#### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, Representative Rhiley provided **proponent** testimony. The proponent stated SGT Parker's mother has been very active in the Gold Star Family community and provided information regarding SGT Parker. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to include the contents of HB 2458, to designate a portion of US-56 as the PFC Shane Austin Memorial Highway.

### **HB 2458 – PFC Shane Austin Memorial Highway**

The bill was introduced by Representatives Collins, Proctor, and Sutton.

#### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Collins and the mother of PFC Austin provided **proponent** testimony. The proponents stated PFC Austin, from Edgerton, enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Iraq. PFC Austin died in combat in 2006 and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his heroism.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by PFC Austin's brother and three private citizens. The Chairperson noted a letter of support also had been received from PFC Austin's grandmother. No other testimony was provided.

#### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Proctor. He stated the designation will serve as a memorial to those who served their country. No other testimony was provided.

### **SB 313 – Senator Tom R Van Sickle Memorial Highway**

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Tyson.

#### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, written-only **proponent** testimony was received from the Van Sickle family and members of the Fort Scott community. According to testimony, Senator Van Sickle served three terms in the Kansas Senate and was a champion of developing US-69 as part of the Kansas freeway system. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to add the contents of SB 309 (AMM2c Walter Scott Brown Memorial Highway) and the amended contents of SB 447 (Dennis Crain Bridge).

#### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, written-only **proponent** testimony was provided by the Van Sickle family and the son of Dennis Crain. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the enactment date of the bill from publication in the statute book to publication in the *Kansas Register*.

### ***SB 309 – AMM2c Walter Scott Brown Memorial Highway***

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Tyson.

#### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

A private citizen testified as a **proponent**. He stated Aviation Machinists' Mate 2nd Class Brown was from Pleasanton, enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1940, and was killed at Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. He was awarded a Purple Heart and a Navy destroyer escort ship was named for him. No other testimony was provided.

### ***SB 447 – Dennis Crain Bridge***

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Assessment and Taxation at the request of Senator Tyson. As introduced, the bill would have designated the bridge as the Dennis and Jane Crain Overpass.

The bill did not have a scheduled hearing in the Senate Committee on Transportation and no testimony was provided; however, information distributed to the Committee states Mr. Crain was the second of three generations since 1971 to own American Concrete Company in Pittsburg, employing many local residents, and he was involved in various community organizations.

[*Note:* As introduced, SB 447 would have designated the bridge as the Dennis and Jane Crain Overpass. The contents were amended as the contents of the bill were added to SB 313.]

### ***SB 446 – Veterans Memorial Bridge***

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Hilderbrand.

#### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Thompson provided **proponent** testimony, expressing support for honoring veterans. No other testimony was provided.

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

#### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, written-only proponent testimony was received from Senators Hilderbrand and Thompson. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to make it effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [*Note:* The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.]

## **Fiscal Information**

For each bill included in the HB 2478, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase in the expenditure limitation for the agency's operations account for FY 2023 equal to the amount needed to manufacture and install the signs. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor's Budget Report*

### **HB 2478**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2478 and 2458, both as introduced, KDOT estimates the following fiscal effects:

- HB 2478 (SGT Evan S Parker Memorial Highway) – \$3,060 to manufacture and install the signs (\$1,530 per sign), requiring \$4,590 in donations to install the signs.
- HB 2458 (PFC Shane Austin Memorial Highway) – \$3,060 to manufacture and install the signs (\$1,530 per sign), requiring \$4,590 in donations to install the signs.

### **SB 313**

According to the fiscal notes prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 313, SB 309, and SB 447, all as introduced, KDOT estimates the following fiscal effects:

- SB 313 (Senator Tom R Van Sickle Memorial Highway) – \$6,000 to manufacture and install two signs; \$9,000 would need to be received from donations to install the signs.
- SB 309 (AMM2c Walter Scott Brown Memorial Highway) – \$9,100 to manufacture and install two signs; \$13,650 would need to be received from donations to install the signs.
- SB 447 (Dennis and Jane Crain Overpass) – \$3,020 to manufacture and install two signs; \$4,530 would need to be received from donations to install the signs. No fiscal note was available for SB 447 as the Dennis Crain Memorial Bridge when the Senate Committee or the House Committee took action on the bill.

### **SB 446 (Veterans Memorial Bridges)**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDOT states that an estimated cost for signs would be \$7,280. A total of \$10,920 would need to be received from donations to install the signs. [Note: As introduced, SB 447 also would have designated a bridge on US-166 as Veterans Memorial Bridge.]

Highway; veterans; memorial; bridge

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