

SESSION OF 2023

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 11**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Federal and State Affairs

**Brief\***

SB 11 would authorize the Capitol Preservation Committee to develop and approve the *Ad Astra* Plaza (Plaza) on capitol area grounds. The Plaza would include a life-size sculpture of the *Ad Astra* statute that tops the State Capitol Building, bronze plaques, and donor bricks.

The Ad Astra Sculpture Fund (Fund) was initially established in 1995 (SB 15). SB 11 would designate the Fund as a no-limit special revenue fund until June 30, 2023, under the Department of Administration. The bill would also amend funding provisions to indicate the Fund may be expended on the Plaza rather than the pedestal and sculpture alone.

The bill would authorize the Secretary of Administration to receive and expend moneys from grants, gifts, contributions, or bequests made for the purpose of creating, constructing, or maintaining the *Ad Astra* sculpture and Plaza. The bill also specifies no public moneys could be expended for the purpose of creating, constructing, or maintaining the plaza.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

**Background**

SB 11 was prefiled for introduction by Senator Bowers.

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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>

### ***Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs***

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Bowers, a representative of the Kansas State Historical Society and Chair of the Capitol Preservation Committee, and a private citizen. The proponents provided background information, stating when the *Ad Astra* statute was placed on the dome, the artist created a smaller replica version of the statute that was intended to be placed in the Plaza along with bronze plaques and donor bricks, but these have not yet been installed. They stated the bill would allow funds to be donated to complete the project.

No other testimony was provided.

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

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Department of Administration indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect because the Plaza would be constructed with funding from gifts, grants, or contributions.

Ad Astra Plaza; Ad Astra; Capitol Preservation Committee; State Capitol; Department of Administration