

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2132

As Amended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2132 would authorize Gold Star Family license plates for passenger vehicles and small trucks, to be issued on and after January 1, 2012.

The bill would define "Gold Star family member" as any person entitled to receive the Department of Defense Gold Star lapel button or the lapel button for next of kin of deceased active duty personnel.

The bill would exempt this license plate from the \$40 distinctive license plate fee required for some distinctive license plates upon receipt of the metal plate. Upon the death of the person to whom the plate was issued, a surviving family member would be entitled to retain the plate.

Background

Representative Melanie Meier testified in support of the bill, as did six family members of individuals who died while in active military service. No neutral or opposition testimony was offered.

According to testimony, those entitled to receive the military lapel buttons include the following categories of people related to a member of the armed forces who lost his or her life while on active duty: the deceased service member's widow or widower, parent (including stepparent,

*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>

adoptive parent, or foster parent who stood *in loco parentis*), child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half brother, sister, and half sister.

The House Committee on Transportation amended the bill to require that proof of eligibility for the plate be required only when the vehicle owner first receives the plate, and not annually at registration.

Other distinctive license plates related to military service are exempted from distinctive license plate fees. Kansas military-related plates are disabled veteran, National Guard, prisoner of war, Pearl Harbor survivor, Purple Heart recipient, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, active or retired military, and Gold Star mother plates. Vietnam War veteran plates are to be issued beginning January 1, 2012.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget says that the Department of Revenue reported an initial supply of 3,000 Gold Star family license plates would increase expenditures from the Division of Vehicles Operating Fund by \$24,780 (3,000 plates x \$8.26). The exemption from the personalized license plate fee would reduce revenue to the State Highway Fund by \$120,000 (3,000 x \$40). Any fiscal effect resulting from the passage of the bill was not included in amounts recommended in *The FY 2012 Governor's Budget Report*.