

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 263

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 263 would establish the Military Honors Funeral Fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the Adjutant General. Any gifts, grants, donations, and bequests for the purpose of providing military honors at funerals would be deposited in the new fund. Expenditures would be subject to appropriations by the Legislature. Interest would be credited to this fund.

Background

The bill was requested by the Adjutant General's Department. The State Command Sergeant Major of the Kansas Army National Guard appeared in support of the legislation that would allow the receipt and expenditure of funds in support of the activities of the Kansas Army National Guard's Military Funeral Honors program, which provides military honors at veterans' funerals. The State Coordinator for Kansas Military Funeral Honors also spoke in favor of the bill. Due to recent federal budget cuts, fewer veterans' funeral services can be provided, and payments for those services help support the provision of military honors; the new funding source would help maintain the military funeral honors program by the Honor Guard unit, he said. Last fiscal year 1,131 veterans' funeral services were supported by the program.

*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>

A representative of the Kansas Funeral Directors Association also provided testimony in support of this bill that would allow collection of private donations to continue honoring deceased veterans in this manner.

The fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget was unable to estimate the revenues that would be generated by this bill. The Governor's FY 2015 *Budget Report* included a no-limit line item for the new fund, as reported during the Senate Committee hearing.