

SESSION OF 2017

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2203**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Transportation

**Brief\***

HB 2203, as amended, would designate a portion of US-75, in Woodson County north of Yates Center, as the Eldon K Miller Memorial Highway. The bill would remove that portion of US-75 from designation as the Purple Heart/Combat Wounded Veterans Highway.

Additionally, the bill would designate a portion of Interstate Highway 70 (I-70) as the John Carlin Highway. The designated portion of I-70 would begin at the junction of I-70 with K-15 and continue west to the junction of I-70 with US-81. Further, the bill would amend law relating to the designation of a portion of US-40 as the Blue Star Memorial Highway by referencing the junction of US-81 rather than K-15.

Under continuing law, the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) is required to place suitable signs to indicate such designation. However, the Secretary is precluded from placing these signs until the Secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for the cost of placing such signs, plus an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement of the signs. The Secretary may accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing suitable signs. The bill would require the Secretary to place highway signs along the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to indicate the designations of the Eldon K Miller Highway and the John Carlin Highway once the reimbursement requirements are met.

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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>

## **Background**

### ***HB 2203***

Representative Ellis requested the bill and testified as its proponent in the House Committee on Transportation hearing. The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) provided neutral testimony, requesting the honoree's title be removed to comply with state requirements related to highway signs. No other testimony was provided.

According to testimony, Sergeant Miller, a native of Yates Center, served in the U.S. Army Corps during World War II and was a Kansas Highway Patrol trooper starting in 1953. He was killed in the line of duty in Overland Park in 1968.

The House Committee amended the bill to remove the honoree's final Highway Patrol rank.

In the Senate Committee on Transportation hearing, Representative Ellis and Sergeant Miller's nephew spoke in favor of the bill. Neutral testimony was provided by KDOT.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to add the provisions of SB 45, as amended by the Senate Committee, to designate a portion of I-70 as the John Carlin Highway.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDOT estimates it would cost \$2,480 to manufacture and install two signs along the portion of highway designated in the bill showing the designation. Including an additional 50.0 percent of the initial cost to defray future sign maintenance, the Secretary would need to receive a total of \$3,720 from donations to install the signs. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$2,480 to an expenditure limitation for the agency operations account. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*.

## **SB 45**

The Senate Committee on Transportation introduced the bill at the request of Senator Hawk. In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Hawk and a private citizen testified in support of the bill. The proponents highlighted John Carlin's contributions to Kansas and the nation as a former member of the Kansas House of Representatives, a former Speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives, former Governor of Kansas, former Archivist of the United States, and current professor at Kansas State University. The proponents also stated the proposed location of the portion of I-70 between Abilene and Salina would be the most fitting because the location represents the history of John Carlin's service to Kansas: he was raised in the Salina area and was involved with the Eisenhower National Library in Abilene as Archivist of the United States.

No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to replace a reference to US-40 with a reference to I-70. (For the portion of the highway that would be designated, the route designations refer to the same roadway.)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDOT estimates it would cost \$3,560 to manufacture and install two signs at a cost of \$1,780 per sign. Including an additional 50.0 percent of the initial cost to defray future sign maintenance, the Secretary would need to receive a total of \$5,340 from donations to install the signs. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$3,560 to the expenditure limitation for the KDOT operations account in FY 2018. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*.