

SESSION OF 2019

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 138**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Transportation

**Brief\***

SB 138 would designate a portion of US-77 in Cowley County, from 212<sup>th</sup> Road to 22<sup>nd</sup> Road, as the Capt. Donald Root Strother Memorial Highway.

The Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) would be required to place highway signs at proper intervals to indicate such designation. Under continuing law, 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 50.0 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 remove this portion of US-77 from designation as the Robert B. Docking Memorial Highway.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Transportation at the request of Senator Alley.

At the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Alley provided proponent testimony, stating Captain Strother was the first Cowley County Army Air Corps pilot to lose his life in action in World War II. Captain Strother was awarded the

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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>

Distinguished Service Cross and the Order of the Purple Heart. The portion of highway to be so designated would be near Strother Field, also named for Captain Strother. No other testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) estimates it would cost \$7,360 to manufacture and install two signs showing the designation on the portion of highway identified in the bill. Including an additional 50.0 percent of the initial cost to defray future sign maintenance, the Secretary would need to receive a total of \$11,040 from donations to install the signs. KDOT indicates implementation of the bill would require an increase of \$7,360 to the expenditure limitation for the agency operations account in FY 2020. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.