

SESSION OF 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2476

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2476, as amended, would authorize two distinctive license plates related to military honors and four distinctive license plates related to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) for issuance on or after January 1, 2023. The military honors plates would be available to recipients of the Silver Star or the Bronze Star, and the KDWP plates would represent state parks, hunting, fishing, and nongame wildlife.

For each of these license plates, the bill would authorize issuance of the license plate for use on a passenger vehicle, truck with a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less, or motorcycle to a person having met the criteria of such plates.

The bill would require the application to be made at least 60 days prior to a person's renewal of registration date, on a form provided by the Director of Vehicles (Director), Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR).

Silver Star and Bronze Star License Plates

The bill would require an applicant to furnish proof satisfactory to the Director of having been awarded either the Bronze Star or Silver Star honor to the Director in order to be issued such license plate.

*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>

Neither type of license plate would be transferable to another person. These license plates would be exempt from requirements the person receiving the plate pay a distinctive license plate fee, for a minimum number to be ordered before issuance, and for payment of an amount to defray the costs of the Division of Vehicles, KDOR, to develop the license plate.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks License Plates

The bill would authorize issuance of a KDWP license plate to any Kansas resident having proper registration, who has paid the regular license fee and the KDWP royalty fee. The Secretary of Wildlife and Parks would determine the amount of the annual royalty fee in an amount not less than \$40 nor more than \$100.

The license plates would not be transferable to another person. The bill would authorize the Director to transfer a plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

The license plates would be intended to depict and promote:

- State parks;
- Hunting;
- Fishing; and
- Nongame wildlife.

As a condition of receiving these license plates, the bill would require an applicant's consent for the Division of Vehicles, KDOR, to provide the applicant's motor vehicle information to KDWP and the State Treasurer.

The royalty payments from these license plates would be credited to different existing KDWP fee funds based upon the license plate selected:

- For the state parks license plate, all royalty funds would be credited to the Parks Fee Fund;
- For the hunting, fishing, or nongame wildlife license plates:
 - An amount equal to the cost of an annual park pass and recreation motor vehicle permit would be credited to the Parks Fee Fund; and
 - The remaining balance would be credited to the Wildlife Fee Fund.

The bill would amend law regarding parks and recreation motor vehicle permits to provide that the issuance of one of these distinctive license plates shall also constitute issuance of a park and recreation motor vehicle permit, giving the driver equivalent rights and access to state parks as an annual permit holder, so long as the registration is current and the plate is displayed on the vehicle as required by law.

Under continuing law, any of the four KDWP license plates would not be issued unless there is a guarantee of an initial issuance of at least 250 license plates, and the KDWP would be required to submit a nonrefundable amount to defray costs of the Division of Vehicles for developing the distinctive license plate.

Background

The bill would contain the contents of HB 2476, to authorize the Bronze Star and Silver Star distinctive license plates, introduced by Representatives Timothy Johnson, Ellis, French, and Neelly, and HB 2597.

HB 2476 (Silver Star and Bronze Star License Plates)

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Timothy Johnson and two veterans who stated they had been awarded Bronze Star medals testified as **proponents**. They stated the license plates would honor those who have received either of these military awards. No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, Representative Johnson provided **proponent** testimony. The proponent explained the requirements that had to be met to receive these awards. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to include the contents of HB 2597, to authorize the creation of four distinctive license plates for KDWP.

HB 2597 (Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks License Plates)

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Blex.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks provided **proponent** testimony. The proponent said Kansas is the only state in the country not to issue a distinctive license plate to benefit its conservation agency. The proponent further stated that the bill would make Kansas one of the few states where such a plate would provide the purchaser access to their state park system.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of KDWP provided **proponent** testimony. The representative explained how the funding in the bill would benefit KDWP. No other testimony was provided

Fiscal Information

HB 2476 (Silver Star and BronzeStar License Plates)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, KDOR indicates enactment of the bill would increase its expenditures by \$7,176 in FY 2023 for programming and administrative costs related to the new license plates. Any fiscal effected associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor's Budget Report*.

HB 2597 (Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks License Plates)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2597, KDWP estimates the license plate would generate \$450,000 annually from the royalty payments. The agency estimates that many individuals who would pay the \$40 royalty fee are already paying for the \$15 annual park and recreation motor vehicle permits, resulting in a net increase of \$25 or 62.5 percent of the total payment. The agency estimates new income generated by enactment of the bill would be \$281,250 ($\$450,000 \times 62.5 \text{ percent} = \$281,250$) per year. However, given the first issuance of the plate would not occur until January 1, 2023, FY 2023 revenues would be estimated at \$140,625. KDWP would also have to pay KDOR \$5,000 for production costs of each plate, totaling \$20,000.

KDOR estimates enactment of the bill would increase its expenditures by \$8,760 in FY 2023 for administrative costs related to quality assurance testing, user acceptance testing, updating policy and procedures, and plate design. KDOR estimates the bill would increase revenues by \$40,000 from a \$40 personalized plate fee assuming an initial issuance of 1,000 plates. Of that amount, \$39,250 would go to the State Highway Fund, and \$375 would go to county treasurers. KDOR also estimates the bill would increase revenues to the Distinctive License Plate Fund by \$20,000 for the nonrefundable fee required from KDWP.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of HB 2597 is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor's Budget Report*.

License plate; Silver Star Medal; Bronze Star Medal; wildlife and parks; hunting; fishing; vehicle