

SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 132

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 132 would authorize a Buffalo Soldier license plate for use on a passenger vehicle or a truck registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less, for issuance on or after January 1, 2024.

The bill would allow the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum to authorize the organization's logo to be affixed on these license plates. The bill would require a person desiring this license plate to make a logo use royalty payment, of which a portion would be dedicated to the construction of reimagined Frontier Army Museum outside of Fort Leavenworth.

The bill would require the vehicle owner or lessee to apply for the new plate at least 60 days prior to their renewal of registration date, on a form provided by the Director of Vehicles (Director), Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), after making a logo use royalty payment of between \$25 and \$100 to the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum or the county treasurer. Payment of the regular license fee would be required.

The registration or license plate would not be transferable to any other person. The bill would authorize the Director to transfer the plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

*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>

The bill would require the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum to provide to county treasurers an email address for applicant inquiries and, with the approval of the Director, to design the plate.

The bill would provide introductory clauses with information about the history of the Buffalo Soldiers and efforts to tell their story.

Under continuing law, Buffalo Soldier license plates will not be issued unless there is a guarantee of an initial issuance of least 250 license plates, and the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum would be required to submit a nonrefundable amount not to exceed \$5,000 to defray costs of the Division of Vehicles (Division), KDOR, for developing the distinctive license plate. Continuing law also requires the Division to produce a distinctive license plate for a motorcycle upon request to the Division.

Background

The bill was introduced by Senators Pittman, Faust-Goudeau, and Haley.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Pittman and representatives of the Alexander/Madison Chapter of Buffalo Soldiers and the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum. A private citizen provided written-only proponent testimony. The proponents stated that African Americans serving as Buffalo Soldiers in the U.S. Army, including those assigned to Fort Leavenworth, made significant contributions to settlement of the American frontier. Proponents also described the work of the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum, housed in the former home of a Buffalo Soldier, and noted the installation of the Buffalo Soldier Monument at Fort Leavenworth in 1992.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDOR estimates enactment of the bill would increase FY 2024 revenues by \$10,000, of which \$9,813 would be remitted to the State Highway Fund and \$188 would be retained by county treasurers. KDOR estimates the bill would increase revenues to the Distinctive License Plate Fund by \$5,000 from the sponsor, to defray the cost to develop the new license plate. KDOR estimates enactment of the bill would increase expenditures by \$4,250 in FY 2024 for costs related to designing and manufacturing the new plate. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Distinctive license plate; buffalo soldier; Leavenworth