

SESSION OF 2016

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE
BILL NO. 335**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

Sub. for SB 335 would add two nonrefundable surcharges to each vehicle registration fee:

- A \$2 Kansas Highway Patrol Staffing and Training surcharge, to be credited to the Kansas Highway Patrol Staffing and Training Fund that would be created by the bill; expenditures from that fund would be used by the Kansas Highway Patrol (Patrol) to increase employment and retain personnel at the Patrol and would be made in accordance with appropriation acts; and
- A \$1.25 Law Enforcement Training Center surcharge, to be credited to the Law Enforcement Training Center Fund.

Background

The substitute bill modifies provisions of SB 335 and inserts provisions of SB 350 (as introduced by the Senate Committee on Transportation).

SB 335 Background

As introduced, SB 335 would have increased the registration fee for a passenger vehicle with a gross weight of

*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>

4,500 pounds or less from \$30 to \$32 and would have directed \$2 from each registration to the Law Enforcement Training Center Fund.

Senator Bruce; the Executive Director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC); a representative of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs' Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association; the Shawnee County Sheriff; the chiefs of the Andover and Salina police departments; and the director of the Riley County Police Department spoke in support of the bill. The Kansas Highway Patrol and the Sheriff of Wyandotte County submitted written proponent testimony. The KLETC Executive Director provided information on the operations of the KLETC, historical funding, current needs, and downward trends in other moneys directed to the KLETC. He stated new funding would allow the center to maintain programs and facilities. Other conferees cited the high-quality initial training and continuing education provided by the KLETC and its positive contributions to professional law enforcement in Kansas.

The President of the Kansas County Treasurers Association and the Johnson County Treasurer and Finance Director provided neutral testimony, asking legislators to also consider increasing payments to the county treasurers for work related to motor vehicle transactions to cover increased costs and workload.

There was no opponent testimony.

The Senate Committee on Transportation amended the bill to add a surcharge to each vehicle registration, not just to each passenger vehicle registration; to change the amount of the fee from \$2 to \$1.25; to add the contents of SB 350; and to place those contents into a substitute bill.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill, the Department of Revenue indicates 1,683,495 passenger vehicles of 4,500 pounds or

less were registered in 2015. The additional \$2 fee would generate approximately \$3.4 million (1.7 million vehicles times the \$2 fee) in FY 2017. The Department of Revenue also estimates the bill would require \$4,960 from the Vehicle Operating Fund to modify the motor vehicle processing system. The fiscal note states the KLETC's primary funding is from district and municipal court docket fees, which have been trending down by more than 20.0 percent in recent years, and the KLETC estimates it will spend all of its reserve funds after it makes its required bond payments on June 1, 2016. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.

According to information provided by the Department of Revenue for SB 350, there were 2,697,486 vehicle registrations in calendar year 2015. [Note: the \$1.25 fee would generate approximately \$3.37 million (1.7 million vehicles times the \$1.25 fee) in FY 2017.]

SB 350 Background

The provisions of SB 350, as introduced, would be included in the substitute bill, without modification.

Proponent testimony from the Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol to the Senate Committee on Transportation included information on the steady decline in the number of troopers since 2006 even though greater numbers are authorized, steps the Patrol has taken to stabilize or increase the number of troopers, the types of law enforcement activities troopers provide across the state, and the numbers of troopers in neighboring states. The Superintendent said enactment of the bill would allow the Patrol to increase the number of troopers by as many as 75 by the end of FY 2018.

A representative of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police also provided proponent testimony. He provided information on cooperation among the Patrol, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, and local law enforcement agencies

and on how the Patrol assists local law enforcement agencies.

Written proponent testimony was submitted by the President of the Kansas State Troopers Association and the Jefferson County Sheriff on behalf of the Kansas Sheriffs' Association. They stated the decrease in staffing means troopers are not available to assist local law enforcement when needed and consistent funding to support the Patrol's pay progression plan is essential.

The President of the Kansas County Treasurers Association and the Johnson County Treasurer and Finance Director provided written neutral testimony, asking legislators to also consider increasing fees and payments to the county treasurers for work related to motor vehicle transactions, to cover increased costs and workload.

There was no opponent testimony.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, there were 2,697,486 vehicle registrations in calendar year 2015, which would have generated \$5,394,972 if the surcharge had been in place. The fiscal note also states the Department of Revenue estimates additional expenditures of \$7,360 from agency fee funds for administrative costs and setting up the surcharge in the Motor Vehicle Registration System. Any fiscal effect is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.