

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Kristey S. Williams
Representative, 77th District

Proponent Written-only Testimony HB 2015

Feb. 9, 2021

Dear Chairman Proehl and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

I would like to offer written-only proponent testimony in favor of HB 2015: Distinctive License Plates for Retired Military. The bill, as introduced this session 2021, was to reflect amended changes from the original bill introduced in 2019 that passed the House and Senate and then in final conference action failed in one of those ‘change your vote’ catastrophes on the House Floor. The present bill, as currently introduced, does not reflect the original intent due to a miscommunication – though it’s an easy fix with your patience and allowance. A balloon amendment has been requested and is currently being drafted to correct HB 2015 flaws.

Here is the intent of the bill with the proposed amendment referenced above – **to provide a distinctive license plate for RETIRED MILITARY** rather than what is currently offered now – veteran license plates. If the bill were to be amended to include RETIRED MILITARY (generic) that would be great. However, if the Committee would prefer RETIRED AIR FORCE or RETIRED ARMY, etc. – that would be also great. I would defer to the committee’s recommendation on whether or not it is a general military or specific depending on what branch of military.

The important point is that currently in our State, there is no way to recognize those individuals who have devoted their lives to our Country through military service. Veteran plates do not recognize those who have retired – which is a separate and important distinction and honor. It was a retired military family in one of my cities, Rose Hill, that made this request three years ago. She emails me every year asking the status of the plates. It would be a wonderful, and simple, gift to our retired military family if this bill could be corrected and passed into law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kristey Williams

77th District