

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 359**

As Agreed to April 1, 2024

Brief*

SB 359 would authorize issuance of seven license plates on and after January 1, 2025, and require the county of registration to be displayed on license plates approved for production and issuance on and after July 1, 2024.

Distinctive License Plates

The bill would authorize issuance of the following distinctive license plates:

- Kansas City Chiefs (Chiefs);
- Sporting Kansas City (Sporting KC);
- Kansas City Royals (Royals);
- Kansas City Current (KC Current);
- Sedgwick County Zoo;
- Topeka Zoo;
- “Support the Troops”; and
- First City of Kansas.

The bill would authorize each of these distinctive license plates to be issued to a vehicle owner or lessee for use on a passenger vehicle or truck registered for a gross weight of no more than 20,000 pounds.

The bill would require the vehicle owner or lessee to annually apply to the sponsor of the license plate no less than 60 days prior to the person’s renewal of registration date for use of the logo and pay an annual logo use royalty payment fee of \$25 up to \$100 to the sponsors for all but the Support the Troops plate; a \$25 fee that is not a logo use royalty payment would

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apply to the Support the Troops plate. The fee would be paid to the following entities for the respective license plates:

- For the Chiefs license plate, to the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc., to be paid to the Hunt Family Foundation;
- For the Sporting KC license plate, to OnGoal, LLC, to be paid to the Kansas City Soccer Foundation in support of the Victory Project;
- For the Sedgwick County Zoo license plate, to be paid via the State Treasurer to the Sedgwick County Zoological Society (Society);
- For the Royals license plate, to be paid to the Kansas City Royals Foundation;
- For the KC Current license plate, to be paid to the United Way of Greater Kansas City;
- For the Topeka Zoo license plate, to be paid to the Friends of the Topeka Zoo, Inc.;
- For the “Support the Troops” license plate, 50 percent of moneys received to be paid to the Kansas Department of the American Legion and 50 percent to the Kansas Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars; and
- For the First City of Kansas license plate, to be paid to the Leavenworth County Historical Society.

The bill would require, for each of these plates, an initial commitment for 250 plates and, for each of these plates except the Support the Troops plate, the sponsors to pay up to \$5,000 in development costs as required in continuing law (KSA 8-1,141). Initial and renewal registrations would be made through the county treasurer. The plates would not be transferable to any other person, but the bill would authorize the Director of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), to transfer the plate from a leased to a purchased vehicle.

The bill would require the sponsoring organizations to design the plates, with the approval of the Director of Vehicles, and to provide to all county treasurers an email address for contacting the sponsor about the application process or the status of an application for the plate.

The bill would require, for each of the plates, the applicant to consent to the release of certain information by the Division of Vehicles, KDOR, including applicant name, address, royalty payment amount, plate number, and vehicle type to the sponsor and the State Treasurer.

County of Registration on License Plates

The bill would require each license approved for production and issuance on and after January 1, 2024, to have the county of registration horizontally printed or affixed by decal to the license plate.

The requirement would apply to a license plate for any vehicle for which the Kansas motor vehicle tax of Article 51 of Chapter 79 of the *Kansas Statutes Annotated* must be paid; that tax is not applicable to vehicles that are otherwise taxed, such as commercial motor vehicles and vehicles owned by a public service company or car rental company; motor vehicles registered

for a gross weight exceeding 12,000 pounds; and recreational vehicles. The requirement also would not apply to a distinctive license plate issued to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the provisions of SB 359, as amended by the House Committee of the Whole, and agreed to add the provisions of HB 2498, as amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation, and to further amend the bill to:

- Limit the county designation provisions only to license plate designs approved for production and issuance on and after July 1, 2024; and
- Requiring county designations to be horizontal.

Background

As agreed to by the Conference Committee, the bill includes provisions of SB 359, SB 342, SB 400, HB 2498, SB 130, and the amendments described above. [*Note: The provisions of SB 342 and SB 400 were included in SB 359, as amended by the House Committee of the Whole. The provisions of SB 130 were included in HB 2498, as amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation.*]

SB 359 (Chiefs, Sporting KC, Sedgwick County Zoo, Royals, KC Current, Topeka Zoo license plates)

SB 359 was introduced by Senator Warren and 18 additional senators.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing on SB 359, Senator Warren provided **proponent** testimony, stating that supporting a local professional team can be unifying. The Chiefs plate would provide funds to the Hunt Family Foundation which provides grants focusing on children's health and wellness and family crisis support and is committed to the legacy of the Chiefs football team and the National Football League. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Chief Financial Officer of the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended SB 359 to include the provisions of SB 342 (Sedgwick County Zoo license plate) and SB 400 (Sporting KC license plate).

Senate Committee of the Whole

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to add provisions regarding the Royals and KC Current license plates. [*Note: The Conference Committee retained these provisions.*]

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, Senator Warren and representatives of the KC Current, Sedgwick County Zoo, Friends of the Topeka Zoo, Victory Project, and Sporting KC provided **proponent** testimony. Senator Sykes provided written-only proponent testimony. The representative of the Friends of the Topeka Zoo requested consideration of an amendment to the bill to include a Topeka Zoo license plate.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to add provisions regarding the Topeka Zoo license plate and to change the recipient of payments for the Royals license plate from a charity approved by the Royals to the Kansas City Royals Foundation. [Note: The Conference Committee retained these amendments.]

House Committee of the Whole

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to add the provisions authorizing the “Support the Troops” license plate. [Note: The Conference Committee retained these provisions.]

SB 342 (Sedgwick County Zoo License Plate)

SB 342 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Blasi.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing on SB 342, a representative of the Sedgwick County Zoo provided **proponent** testimony, who provided the history of the Zoo, the status of the number of animals and species in the Zoo, and the benefits of the Zoo for the surrounding area and Kansas at large. No other testimony was provided.

SB 400 (Sporting KC License Plate)

SB 400 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Transportation at the request of a representative from Sporting KC.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing on SB 400, representatives of Sporting KC and the Victory Project provided **proponent** testimony. The proponents stated how the funds collected from the Sporting KC license plate would be provided to the Victory Project which helps children with financial and physical challenges to participate in soccer clubs through Soccer-for-All grants, attend Major League Soccer matches, and interact with Sporting KC team members. The Victory Project also provides the Emerging Sports Leaders Scholarship for postsecondary

education. The proponents also noted that several 2026 World Cup matches will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, providing regional economic benefits. No other testimony was provided.

HB 2498 (First City of Kansas License Plate)

HB 2498 was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Proctor.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, a representative of the Leavenworth County Historical Society provided proponent testimony. She stated the city of Leavenworth had been settled in 1854, listed some of the notable people associated with and attractions of the city, and noted letters of support from commissioners for the proposed license plate, which the Society hopes will increase awareness of the city. No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of the Leavenworth County Historical Society provided **proponent** testimony substantially similar to the testimony provided to the House Committee on Transportation.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to add the contents of SB 130 as passed by the Senate. [Note: The Conference Committee retained these provisions.]

SB 130 (County of Registration on License Plate)

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation at the request of Senator Tyson.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Tyson provided **proponent** testimony, stating the designations would help law enforcement officers identify vehicles.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to exempt a distinctive license plate for a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. [Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.]

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, Senator Tyson and Representative Johnson provided **proponent** testimony, stating county designations would assist law enforcement.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

SB 359 (Chiefs, Sporting KC, Sedgwick County Zoo, Royals, KC Current, Topeka Zoo License Plates); SB 342 (Sedgwick County Zoo License Plate); SB 400 (Sporting KC License Plate); HB 2498 (First City of Kansas License Plate)

According to the fiscal notes from the Division of the Budget on SB 359, SB 342, SB 400, and HB 2498 as introduced, KDOR:

- Estimates the enactment of each of the four bills included in SB 359, as amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation, Senate Committee of the Whole, and House Committee on Transportation, would increase its expenditures by \$2,340 in FY 2025 for administrative costs relate to designing and manufacturing the new license plates;
- Would collect, for each, a fee of up to \$5,000 for plate development from the sponsor; and
- Indicates that each of these license plates would be subject to the \$40 specialized plate application fee and the \$40 personalized plate application fee if the applicant chooses to personalize the license plate.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of SB 359, as amended, is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

An updated fiscal note incorporating the provisions added by the Senate Committee on Transportation, Senate Committee of the Whole, the House Committee on Transportation, and the House Committee of the Whole was not immediately available.

SB 130 (County of Registration on License Plates)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 130, as introduced, KDOR indicates enactment of the bill would increase its expenditures by \$20,750 to change approximately 83 license plate designs to make room for the county indicator, and the agency would have additional costs of \$1,450 for IT development and testing. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Distinctive license plates; kansas city chiefs; sporting kansas city; kansas city royals; kansas city current; sedgwick county zoo; topeka zoo; support the troops; sports; zoos; military

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