

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Richard Proehl at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 582-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Kasha Kelley – Excused

Representative Mario Goico – Excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department

Craig McCullah, Legislative Research Department

Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Scott Wells, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Betty Boaz, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jim Hanni, AAA Allied Group

Norraine Wingfield, KS Traffic Safety Resource Office, KDOT

Sandy Horton, Kansas Sheriffs Association

Hilary Gee, KS Action for Children

Darlene Whitlock, KS Emergency Nurses Assn/KS State Nurses Ass'n./Safe Kids Kansas Coalition

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Bill introductions

Representative Sloan moved to introduce a bill for authority to expunge drivers license violations as in other actions. The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard and the motion carried.

Representative Sloan moved to introduce a bill designating a state rock. The motion was seconded by Representative Todd and the motion carried.

There being no other bill introductions Chairman Proehl opened the hearing on **HB2157**.

Hearing on: HB2157 — Creating the seat belt safety fund and increasing the fine for adult seat belt violations.

The Chairman recognized Jim Hanni as the first proponent. ([Attachment 1](#)) He said historically, teen seat belt usage has been significantly below adult usage in Kansas. According to Mr. Hanni there is a disparity between the seat belt fines for teen and adult violations in Kansas and making the adult fine the same as the teen fine could fully fund SAFE in every high school across Kansas as well as provide additional occupant restraint promotion and education dollars to further reduce costly injuries and fatalities.

The second proponent was Norraine Wingfield. ([Attachment 2](#)) She discussed what she considered the

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major gaps in occupant protection education and enforcement and provided information 'on a successful data proved occupant protection program'. She played a video showing one of the key problems faced in occupant protection in Kansas. Ms Wingfield had provided booklets called "SAFE Seatbelts Are For Everyone" and "SAFE Final Report 2013-2014."

The Chairman recognized former Sheriff Sandy Horton. ([Attachment 3](#)) Sheriff Horton said SAFE is comprised of three phases with the first being the Education Phase, second is the Incentive Phase and last is the Enforcement Phase. He explained how each phase worked.

Hilary Gee was the next proponent. ([Attachment 4](#)) She said Seatbelts Are For Everyone (SAFE) is a student-led education program that has been proven to consistently increase seat belt use and reduce fatalities. She said the program also improved communication between communities and local law enforcement.

Darlene Whitlock was the next proponent. ([Attachment 5](#)) According to Ms. Whitlock the members of her organizations want to add their support to this legislation creating funding for the Seatbelts Are For Everyone program. They believe increasing the fine for lack of seat belt use is also a measure for public health. By assuring funding on a consistent basis, the program will be able to sustain and expand to more schools.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to written testimony submitted in support of **HB2157** by:

Captain Scott Harrington, Kansas Highway Patrol ([Attachment 6](#))

Phyllis Larimore, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics ([Attachment 7](#))

Ed Klumpp, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police ([Attachment 8](#))

Chris Bortz, Kansas Department of Transportation ([Attachment 9](#))

Kansas State Troopers Association ([Attachment 10](#))

Chairman Proehl drew the Committee's attention to written testimony submitted as Neutral by:

Dave Johnston, Kansas EMS Association ([Attachment 11](#))

Joe House, Executive Director of Kansas Board of EMS ([Attachment 12](#))

As there were no other proponents, opponents or neutrals, the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB2157**.

Update on:

The Chairman introduced Major Mark Bruce, Superintendent, Kansas Highway Patrol. ([Attachment 13](#)) The Major gave a brief background on the KHP and said their principal function continues to be focused on traffic safety. He discussed the complexities of policing and technology which have evolved and allowed the Patrol to enhance its capabilities to meet the challenges of law enforcement today. He discussed the struggle the Patrol is having to acquire a significant number of applicants for trooper

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vacancies and their efforts to attract applicants.

Major Bruce answered questions from the Committee members.

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned.