

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Petersen at 8:30 am on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – Excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department

Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department

Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Carolyn Long, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mark E. Schemm, Manager, Division of Vehicles, Department of Revenue

Larry Mah, Shawnee County Treasurer

Tom Franzen, Johnson County Treasurer/Finance Director

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Hearing on: SB215 — Motor vehicle registration, evidence of renewal.**

The Chairperson opened the Hearing on **SB 215** and asked Adam Siebers, Assistant Revisor, to explain the bill. This bill would provide a ten-day grace period for persons obtaining their registration on-line to prove a vehicle registration is current by producing a registration receipt. This receipt would also negate any court charges.

Mark Schemm, Manager, Titles and Registration, Division of Vehicles said this legislation would produce good customer service, which is always the aim of their division ([Attachment 1](#)).

Larry Mah, Shawnee County Treasurer, said this would be a win/win situation for his office as they encourage web registration ([Attachment 2](#)).

Thomas Franzen, Johnson County Treasurer/Finance Director, stated that in an effort to improve customer service, stakeholder meetings were held that included law enforcement, and this is definitely an improvement. He noted it is designed only for private vehicles ([Attachment 3](#)).

The Treasurers were asked what could be done regarding vehicles being registered out-of-state but used in Kansas and their response was that they do not have law enforcement authority; however, if they are made aware of such a situation they in turn do report it to the proper authorities.

Submitting written testimony in favor of the bill were:

Joe Grisolano, Crawford County Treasurer ([Attachment 4](#)); Gayla Shields, Miami County Treasurer ([Attachment 5](#)); Shiloh Heger, Riley County Treasurer ([Attachment 6](#)); Christie Bittel, Kansas County Treasurers Association President/Rush County Treasurer ([Attachment 7](#)); Debbie Pack, Unified

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Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, Director of Revenue/Treasurer ([Attachment 8](#)); Kathy Tremont, Geary County Treasurer ([Attachment 9](#)); and Paula Gilchrist, Douglas County Treasurer ([Attachment 10](#)).

There being no further discussion, the Hearing on **SB 215** was closed.

The Chairperson stated his intent to work **SB 215** and called for Final Action. The Manager of Titles and Registration requested an amendment on lines 24-26 to exempt commercial vehicles and Senator Schmidt requested "e.g. WebTags" be stricken. Senator Fitzgerald asked why the exclusion of commercial vehicles and he was informed that commercial vehicle renewal is at the end of the year whereas private vehicles are staggered throughout the year and commercial vehicles are registered in a separate system. *Motion by Senator Wolf, seconded by Senator Schmidt to move the amendment. Motion carried. Moved by Senator Wolf, seconded by Senator King to move **SB 215**, as amended, out favorably for passage. Motion carried.*

### **Hearing on: SB173 — Korean war, operation desert storm, operation Iraqi freedom and operation enduring freedom license plates.**

Chairperson Petersen opened the Hearing on **SB 173** and asked Mr. Siebers for an explanation of the bill. This bill would create distinctive license plates for use by veterans for the Korean War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. The bill would waive the distinctive license plate fee and would authorize the transfer of the plate to the surviving spouse or other family member if no spouse.

Senator Tom Holland ([Attachment 11](#)) and David Teska ([Attachment 12](#)) presented written testimony in favor of this bill; however, since neither could be present, the Chairperson noted it was his intent to try and have the bill blessed and continue the hearing after turnaround.

There being no further discussion, the hearing on **SB 173** was suspended.

### **Possible action on bills previously heard**

The Chairperson called for **Final Action on SB 82--Seat belt safety fund and increase fine for adult seat belt violation**. After a brief explanation of the bill by Mr. Siebers, Senator LaTurner offered an amendment that would authorize an appropriation from the State General Fund (SGF) in the amount of \$480,000 to the Seat Belt Safety Fund of the Department of Transportation.

Senator Schmidt stated she could not support this amendment and felt the increase in the original bill provided a funding stream for the Seatbelts Are For Everyone (SAFE) program. Senator Wolf suggested lowering the cost of the fine for the violation rather than obtain funds from the SGF. Senator Donovan also supported a reduced fine but was not in favor of the proposed amendment.

*Motion by Senator LaTurner, seconded by Senator King to adopt the amendment. Motion carried.*

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Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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Moved by Senator LaTurner, seconded by Senator King, to move **SB 82** as amended, out favorably for passage. Motion carried.

Chairperson Petersen called for **Final Action on SB 94--Unlawful passing of a waste collector**. After a brief summary of the bill by Mr. Siebers, he noted an amendment by Senator Petersen that added the verbage "displaying flashing lights", limit application to four-lane roads, and decreased the fine from \$105 to \$45 and eliminated double fines (page 11, lines 11-14).

Senator Pettey moved the amendment, seconded by Senator Fitzgerald. Motion failed. Motion by Senator King, seconded by Senator Wolf to table **SB 94**. Motion carried.

There being no further business before the Committee, it was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting is February 25, 2015