

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Petersen at 8:30 am on Thursday, March 05, 2015, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – Excused

Senator Jeff King – 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:

Dale Goter, City of Wichita

Gregg Burden, Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Office

Representative Gail Finney

Larry Burks, Sr., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Chairman Petersen opened the meeting and asked for approval of the Minutes for February 10, February 12, February 17, and February 18, 2015. Moved by Senator Schmidt, seconded by Senator Wolf that the Minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Hearing on: HB2006 — Disabled veterans; public parking facility; no charge.

The Chairperson opened the Hearing on **HB 2006** and called on Adam Siebers, Assistant Revisor, for a brief explanation. Mr. Siebers noted that the proposed legislation would allow any vehicle displaying a "Disabled Veteran" license plate to park, without charge, in any public parking facility or lot that employs parking attendants to collect payment, in any parking space clearly marked as being reserved for the use of any persons with a disability.

Chairman Petersen welcomed Dale Goter, City of Wichita. Mr. Goter shared that this bill was requested by local members of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter and the Wichita City Council endorses the bill ([Attachment 1](#)).

A video was presented that featured Mr. Charles Lovins, himself a disabled Vietnam Veteran from Wichita, supporting this legislation.

Mr. Gregg Burden, Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Office, added his support to this legislation stating that, in his opinion, it would have a positive impact on the disabled veterans that need this benefit the most ([Attachment 2](#)).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Transportation at 8:30 am on Thursday, March 05, 2015, 546-S of the Capitol.

There being no further discussion, the Hearing on **SB 2006** was closed.

Hearing on: HB2013 — Omega Psi Phi license plate.

Chairperson Petersen opened the hearing on **HB 2013** and asked Mr. Siebers for a brief explanation of the bill. This legislation would establish the "Omega Psi Phi" distinctive license plate. The fraternity would be responsible for the design of the plate, the initial cost of silk-screening, and providing county treasurers a toll-free number where applicants can call for information concerning the application process or the status of their application. There is the standard 500 plate commitment.

Representative Gail Finney stated that currently nine other states have the proposed personalized distinctive license plate. It is her hope that Kansas will allow members of this organization to purchase the plate and exhibit their strong pride in the organization ([Attachment 3](#)).

Lt. Col. Larry Burks, Sr. (retired) has been a member of Omega Psi Phi for 40 years and has served in various leadership roles ([Attachment 4](#)). Mr. Burks shared with the Committee some background on the Fraternity, which included:

- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is the first international fraternal organization that was founded on the campus of a historically black college, Howard University, in 1911.
- Omega's cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift are achieved through community leadership. Internationally mandated programs include: Achievement Week; Scholarship; Social Action Programs; Talent Hunt Program; Memorial Program; Reclamation and Retention; College Endowment Fund; Health Initiative; and Voter Registration, Education and Mobilization.
- The Omega Mission is geared to improving the status of the communities in which members live.
- The State of Kansas has six alumni chapters with a membership of 1500 alumni and undergraduate members.

Mr. Burks was asked how the membership would be made aware of the availability of the plate. He responded that he had been working on this for five years and that not only would members want a plate for their personal vehicle, they would more than likely purchase one for each family member. There being no further discussion, the Hearing on **HB 2013** was closed.

Possible action on bills previously heard

There was no action taken on bills previously heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2015.