

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Petersen at 8:30 am on Tuesday, March 17, 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

Scott Wells, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Senator Tom Hawk

Former Representative Vern Swanson

Ron Gaches, AAA Kansas, SAFE Coalition

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

This set of minutes contains multiple meetings

An additional meeting was held at the Rail following adjournment of the Senate.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Petersen called for the *approval of the Minutes for March 5, March 10, March 11, and March 12, 2015. Moved by Senator Donovan, seconded by Senator Pettey to approve the Minutes as forwarded. Motion carried.*

Hearing on: HB2103 — Designating bridge no. 14 (030) in Clay county as the Clay county Vietnam veterans bridge.

Chairperson Petersen opened the Hearing on **HB 2103** and asked Adam Siebers, Assistant Revisor, for a brief explanation of the bill. Mr. Siebers noted that this bill would designate bridge No. 14 on Kansas Highway 15 in Clay County as the Clay County Vietnam Veterans Bridge. No signs would be erected until the Secretary of Transportation receives monies sufficient to cover the cost of placing the signs and an additional 50 percent of that amount to cover future maintenance or replacement of the signs.

Senator Tom Hawk, a proponent of this bill, noted there were 97 retired military personnel in Clay County and 3,817 in Clay County and the seven counties surrounding it. This bridge, named in their honor, would serve as a tangible recognition of our appreciation ([Attachment 1](#)).

Also speaking in favor of this bill, former Representative Vern Swanson said that he had been approached by a Clay County resident and Vietnam veteran asking if there would be a way to honor county residents who had served during the Vietnam conflict. As a result of this meeting it was

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determined that designating the Republican River bridge south of Clay Center would be appropriate. He was aware of the funding mechanism in place and informed the committee that fund raising had begun and they had already received a major donation ([Attachment 2](#)).

Submitting written testimony in favor of **HB 2103** were Harlan Max Smith ([Attachment 3](#)) and LTC William H. Zacharias, Retired, Commander, American Legion Post 101 ([Attachment 4](#)).

There being no further discussion, the Hearing on **HB 2103** was closed.

The Chairperson called for *Final Action on **HB 2103**. It was moved by Senator Schmidt, seconded by Senator Wolf, that **HB 2103** be passed and due to its non-controversial nature be placed on the consent calendar. Motion passed.*

Hearing on: SB274 — Creating the seat belt safety fund and increasing the fine for adult seat belt violations.

The Chairperson opened the Hearing on **SB 274** with Mr. Siebers informing the committee that this bill would establish the Seat Belt Safety Fund to be administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). This bill is similar to **SB 82** but would increase the fine only to \$30 from \$10. A small percentage of district court fines, penalties, and forfeitures would go into the Fund. Expenditures would be used for the promotion and education of seat belt usage among children. It also would require that \$20 for each violation of a city ordinance requiring the use of a seat belt for individuals 18 years of age or older be submitted to the State Treasurer. Cities with municipal courts would impose the higher fine amount and would retain the current \$10 fine.

Ron Gaches, representing the Seat Belts are for Everyone (SAFE) Coalition, strongly supports this bill for funding of the SAFE program for all Kansas high schools. This bill is different from the original **SB 82** in that it generates money to expand SAFE only into Kansas high schools, rather than to both middle and high schools, and the funding mechanism of a \$20 fine increases to create a \$30 total fine, with no court costs. Simply put, he said passage of this bill will save lives ([Attachment 5](#)).

Presenting neutral written testimony was Joe House, Executive Director, Emergency Medical Services Board ([Attachment 6](#)).

There being no further discussion, the Hearing on **SB 274** was closed.

The Chairperson called for *Final Action on **SB 274**. Moved by Senator Donovan, seconded by Senator Wolf that **SB 274** be moved out favorably for passage. Motion carried.*

Possible action on bills previously heard

Chairperson Petersen called for **Final Action on SB 271--Exemption from height and length vehicle**

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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limitations for forage cutters and custom harvesters. Senator Schmidt offered an amendment to add "forage cutter or combine header" to line 25 as requested by U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.. Seconded by Senator Donovan. Motion adopted. Senator Schmidt moved to place the amended contents of **SB 271** into **Senate Substitute for HB 2094**, seconded by Senator Pettey. Motion carried.

It was further moved by Senator Schmidt to place the contents of **SB 274** in **Senate Substitute for HB 2094** and recommend **Senate Substitute for HB 2094** favorably for passage. Seconded by Senator Donovan. Motion carried.

Chairman Petersen called for **Final Action on HB 2013--Omega Psi Phi license plate** and offered a technical amendment on page 1, line 16, changing the word "their" to "its". Seconded by Senator Schmidt. It was moved by Senator Donovan, seconded by Senator Wolf to move out **HB 2013** favorably for passage. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m. There are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Meeting at the Rail

Chairperson Petersen called a Meeting at the Rail at 3:04 p.m. All members were present except Senators Wolf, Pettey, King, and Hensley.

The Chairperson called for **Final Action on SB 245--Concerning certain bridge inspections**. Moved by Senator Schmidt, seconded by Senator LaTurner that **SB 245** be moved out favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2015.