

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Petersen at 8:30 am on Friday, March 11, 2016, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Les Donovan – Excused

Committee staff present:

Scott Wells, Office of Revisor of Statutes

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:

Senator Elaine Bowers

Representative Sharon Schwartz

Representative Sue Boldra

Dennis Schwartz

Representative Marvin Kleeb

Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association

Steven Buckley, Bureau of Safety and Technology, KDOT

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Hearing on: HB2610 — Designating the junction of interstate highway 70 and commerce parkway as the chief warrant officer 4 David Carter fallen veterans memorial interchange.**

Chairman Petersen opened the hearing on **HB 2610** and asked Adam Siebers, Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes, for an explanation. Mr. Siebers noted the bill would designate the junction of Interstate Highway 70 and Commerce Parkway in Ellis County as the Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Carter Fallen Veterans Memorial Interchange; a portion of US-400 in Labette County as the John Troy, Pete Hughes and Earl Seifert Highway; and the junction of I-235 and Central Avenue in Sedgwick County as the Captain Chris Norgren Memorial Interchange.

The Chair welcomed Representative Sharon Schwartz, who offered an amendment incorporating the language in HB 2722, which would designate a portion of K-148 as the SGT Lavern W. Tegtmeier memorial highway, into **HB 2610** ([Attachment 1](#)).

Senator Fitzgerald asked that the staff check on the infantry division for Sgt. Tegtmeier.

Senator Elaine Bowers supported the bill, thanking the Committee for the opportunity to share Sgt.

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Tegtmeier's story ([Attachment 2](#)).

Representative Rick Billinger, speaking for Representative Boldra (who had a sore throat) said that once the legislation is passed, the search for funding will begin for the signs in Ellis County to honor CWO5 Carter ([Attachment 3](#)).

Dennis Schwartz, a classmate of Staff Sergeant Tegtmeier and a Vietnam veteran himself, thanked the Committee members for their consideration of this bill ([Attachment 4](#)).

Presenting written testimony in favor of this legislation were Don Martin ([Attachment 5](#)), A.J. Tegtmeier ([Attachment 6](#)), and the Hanover American Legion Post 306 ([Attachment 7](#)).

There being no further testimony, the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2610**.

### **Hearing on: HB2643 — Allowing the secretary of transportation to increase the maximum speed limit by five miles per hour on certain highways.**

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2643** and asked Mr. Siebers, Assistant Revisor, for an explanation. Mr. Siebers responded that this legislation would allow the Kansas Department of Transportation to increase the speed limit for rural highways from 65 miles per hour to 70 miles per hour.

Speaking in favor of the legislation, Representative Marvin KleeB reminded the Committee that this bill did not mandate a rise in speed limits, it only gave the Secretary the authority to raise limits after careful review. He also believed the speed limit increase could have a positive effect on commerce ([Attachment 8](#)).

Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association (KMCA), stated that his organization is opposed to this legislation. This legislation does not eliminate the current "speed limit buffer" currently in effect in Kansas. Speeding violations not in excess of 10 mph are not reported to the Division of Vehicles, not considered a moving violation, and cannot be used in determining the rate charged for automobile liability insurance policy or used to determine whether to cancel a policy. Should this legislation be passed, he asks that the "buffer" be repealed ([Attachment 9](#)). Staff was requested to provide the Committee with the number of other states that have a similar "buffer."

Senator Hensley noted that in the House presentation, the Kansas Highway Patrol was present and voiced opposition to the bill. It was noted, however, that no KPH representative was present today.

Presenting neutral testimony, Steven Buckley, Bureau of Safety and Technology, KDOT, stated that the speed posted on a rural undivided highway is one that has been determined appropriate based on information received by the KDOT. Passage would not result in an immediate 5 mph increase in speed

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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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limits on all eligible highways ([Attachment 10](#)).

There being no further testimony, the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2643**.

**Possible action on bills previously heard**

Chairman Petersen called for **Final Action on HB 2436--Allowing persons to take motorcycle license driving exam on a 3-wheeled motorcycle and restricting such licenses.** *Senator Schmidt moved to change the effective date from publication in the Kansas Statutes on July 1 to read January 1, 2017. Seconded by Senator Pettey to adopt the amendment. Motion carried. Moved by Senator Donovan, seconded by Senator LaTurner to commend **HB 2436**, as amended. Motion carried.*

**Final Action on HB 2473--Providing for an Alzheimer's disease awareness distinctive license plate; decals for certain military medals or badges.** *Senator Schmidt moved to amend the effective date to publication in the Kansas Register. Seconded by Senator Pettey to adopt the amendment. Motion carried. Moved by Senator Schmidt, seconded by Senator LaTurner to move **HB 2473**, as amended, out favorably for passage. Motion carried.*

**Final Action on HB 2522--Clarifying facial imaging practices for driver's licenses.** *Senator Schmidt moved to remove a requirement the laser engraved photograph be in black and white and to make technical changes. Seconded by Senator Pettey to adopt the amendment. Motion carried. Moved by Senator LaTurner, seconded by Senator Pettey to move **HB 2522**, as amended, out favorably for passage. Motion carried.*

**Final action on HB 2563--Application fee for a restricted motorized bicycle driver's license.** *Senator Schmidt moved to change the proposed fee from \$50 to \$25, seconded by Senator Wolf. Motion carried. Senator Schmidt moved the bill be recommended favorably, as amended. The motion was seconded by Senator Wolf. Motion carried.*

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2016.