

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING -- MARCH 1, 1971

The Roads and Highways Committee met in room 529 at 2:45 P. M. on March 1, 1971. Chairman Dierdorff called the meeting to order and all members were present except Representatives Dempsey, Hayes (excused), Ossmann, Steffes (excused) and Wingert.

Conferees were: Francis McMaster on HB 1343; David Mills on HB 1424; Dan Thiessen, Glee Jones, Walter Graber, Guss Wood, Claud McCammet and Marshall Ray on HB 1499.

Guests present were: Ed Weillepp, Topeka, Kansas Contractors' Association; Ray Lindbergh and Mary Turkington, Topeka, Kansas Motor Carriers Association.

HOUSE BILL 1343 - AN ACT relating to roads and highways; providing for reflectors on certain vehicles; and specifying the shape, size and location of such reflectors.

Mr. McMaster explained the bill. He said it was identical to one introduced last year except one phrase on line 4, after the word state "and unless operated at a speed less than 25 miles an hour". This bill is introduced strictly for safety purposes and several states have this already. A person could own one emblem and change it to another vehicle.

HOUSE BILL 1424 - AN ACT relating to taxation; providing that agricultural users of motor-vehicle fuels may be exempt from the payment of the motor-fuel tax at the time of purchase of such motor-vehicle fuels and prescribing procedures for obtaining such exemption.

Mr. Mills explained the bill and said his purpose of intro-

ducing it was to try to find an alternate method of taking care of the gas tax refund of the farmers so that it would not be necessary to introduce special legislation every two years as we now do.

Mr. Mills said there are two problems in this bill that would need to be corrected -- that he and the bill drafter were not together on. On page 3, line 18-29 should be deleted through "required".

Mr. Mills said that he would hope that the committee would study this bill through the interim and perhaps come up with an alternate method of handling the refund.

HOUSE BILL 1499 - AN ACT concerning vehicle license plates and registration fees; use of reflective materials; amending KSA 1970 Supp. 8-147 and repealing the existing section.

Mr. Thiessen explained the bill and said it would require all tags to be completely reflectorized. He explained that there is a flaw in the bill - that it could not become effective January 1, 1971 - that it would be 1973 because tags before that date are already being made at the prison. He said thirty-five states are doing this at the present time. There are four manufacturers of the reflective materials and this would be on a bid basis.

Support in Kansas for a safety plate program has come from the following: Kansas Highway Users, Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars, Kansas Peace Officers' Association, Kansas Sheriffs' Association, Kansas Citizens Safety Council, Inc., Kansas Women for Highway Safety, Inc., League of Kansas Municipalities,

Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Farmers Union.

It would cost an additional 35¢ to have the tags completely reflectorized. See map attached.

Mrs. Jones said that she has attended various safety meetings and she was told that one out of every four persons would be seriously injured or killed in a traffic accident. She does not believe that the additional cost of the tags of this kind should be a detriment. She strongly urged passage of the bill. Her family had a personal experience where a son was in a bad accident and it was believed it could have been avoided had the tags been completely reflectorized.

Mr. Graber urged passage of the bill. The night before coming in on I-70 he had a demonstration. A Nebraska car passed him and he could see the tag very well where he could not read the Kansas tags. He feels the use of reflectorized tags would save lives and help with law enforcement.

Guss Wood of Atchison, representing the Kansas Peace Officers' Association urged passage of the bill. He also urged use of front licenses also.

Mr. Claud McCammet, Safety Coordinator for the Highway Department, said the magnitude of this is great. Last year in Kansas there were 9,289 accidents after dark and 2,919 of them were rear end accidents. 5,672 people were injured and 39 killed.

Mr. Jacobs asked him if some states have plates of a more permanent nature.

Mr. McCammet said some more expensive ones are aluminum and used longer.

Except as otherwise noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim and this record has not been approved by the committee or by the individuals making such remarks

Marshall Ray with the 3M Company explained that the exposed bead system that is used on the numerals in Kansas has a tendency to hold the dirt. The enclosed beads are self cleaning and are brighter. He said we are trying to save lives and would like to go to a better system.

The Chairman announced there would be a hearing on Tuesday, March 2, for the opponents of House Bill 1158.

The meeting was adjourned.

Fran Stafford, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

Arden Dierdorff  
ARDEN DIERDORFF, CHAIRMAN

March 2, 1971

