

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Transportation

The meeting was called to order by Representative Rex Crowell at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on January 23, 1984 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. John Sutter, excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Fred Carman, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Donna Mulligan, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Tom Walker
Mr. Ron Hoffman, Harvey County Committee for Disabled Persons
Mr. Bill Brown, Newton, Kansas
Mr. Ned Lake, Northview Developmental Services
Mr. Bill Edds, Department of Revenue
Mr. Harold Turntine, Department of Revenue

Chairman Crowell called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was a hearing on HB-2646. Representative Thomas Walker, sponsor of the bill, briefed the committee on the bill's contents. He explained the bill originated from a meeting he had in Newton with the Harvey County Committee for Handicapped Persons in regard to a problem they have concerning the use of the special license tags and cards for handicapped people which allow them to park in "Handicapped" parking zones. He pointed out at the present time a person can have either a license tag or a card, and the bill changes the "or" to "and" to allow them to have both.

The presentation was then turned over to Mr. Ron Hoffman, Vice-President of the Harvey County Committee for Disabled Persons. Letters supporting this bill were distributed to committee members. (See Attachment 1) Mr. Hoffman described parking problems encountered by handicapped individuals, and stated during inclement weather when car windows become fogged over, frozen, or snow covered, law enforcement officers are unable to see the identification cards hanging from the rearview mirrors. Consequently, handicapped persons are issued citations as the officers only see the regular license plate. Mr. Hoffman testified handicapped license tags as well as identification cards is needed and requested such legislation be passed.

Chairman Crowell opened questioning by asking Mr. Hoffman if he intended enactment of a penalty for those persons who do not have their identification card displayed but do have a handicapped license tag on the vehicle. Mr. Hoffman answered that was not his intent.

Representative Cloud suggested that when there is an application made, the State should issue a license plate as well as a card.

Mr. Bill Brown, from Newton, Kansas also gave testimony in support of HB-2646 and reiterated previous testimony.

Mr. Ned Lake of Northview Developmental Services in Newton, Kansas, also gave favorable testimony in support of HB-2646.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Transportation,
room 519-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~XX~~ a.m./p.m. on January 23, 19 84

Mr. Bill Edds of the Department of Revenue took the stand as an opponent of HB-2646 and indicated he had serious reservations about the bill due to the fact it would require automatic issuance of both the identification card and the license tag. He indicated he felt the bill should read that only one or the other should be issued, unless otherwise requested. Mr. Edds explained that his concern in this matter is due to the fact that they have received complaints from handicapped individuals who have seen persons who appear to be able-bodied, parking in the designated areas with identification cards hanging from the rearview mirror.

Mr. Harold Turntine of the Department of Revenue appeared next as an opponent of HB-2646 and stated if his department is required to issue license plates to all card holders, they would have to have the plates specially manufactured to indicate "wheel chair use", and that would result in additional cost.

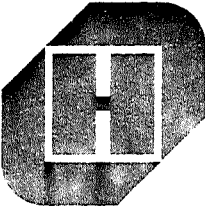
Chairman Crowell asked Mr. Turntine if he ever has the situation wherein someone requests to exchange the plate for a card. Mr. Turntine replied that occasionally it happens and in such cases they are required to turn in their wheelchair plate and then are issued a regular registration plate and a card.

Representative Erne queried Harold Turntine in regard to the fiscal impact HB-2646 would have, and Mr. Turntine stated 4,521 permanent I.D. cards have been issued and if they were required to issue both, they would have to manufacture the license plates at a cost of \$1.54 each. He stated a regular license plate costs \$1.12 each.

Chairman Crowell ended the hearing on HB-2646 and appointed a subcommittee consisting of Representatives Webb, Erne and Fuller to work on the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25.


Rex Crowell, Chairman



HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 687
NEWTON, KANSAS 67114

316-283-6900

December 19, 1983

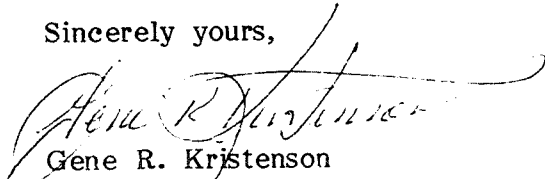
Representative Tom Walker
104 East Broadway
Newton, Kansas 67114

Dear Representative Walker:

The Board of Commissioners of Harvey County wish to go on record in support of the needs of handicapped people in Harvey County as well as in the State of Kansas. We seriously urge you to support legislation which will enable a handicapped person to purchase a rearview mirror tag and a handicapped license tag so as to provide the ability for that individual to meet his or her needs.

We also strongly urge you to support any legislation that will provide easier business transactions for handicapped persons at the county level.

Sincerely yours,



Gene R. Kristenson
County Administrator

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Attachment 1



OFFICE OF *Sheriff, Harvey County, Kansas*

December 8, 1983

Mr. Thomas F. Walker
State Representative
72d District
#15 Circle Drive
Newton, Kansas 67114

Dear Representative Walker:

I am submitting this letter to you, showing my support, and requesting yours, in the revising of KSA 8-132A.

After reviewing some of the problems the handicapped have encountered, I feel this statute should be revised to allow handicapped persons to possess both the handicapped tag and the ID card.

By revising this statute it will make the job of law enforcement officers much easier in controlling parking violations, parking cars at civic or sporting events, and other areas where large amounts of traffic are encountered.

Respectfully submitted,

Galen E. Morford
Galen E. Morford
Harvey County Sheriff

GEM:mk

department of police



the city of newton

120 east 7th street

newton, kansas 67114

phone 283-6900

DWAIN I. KELSCH
Chief of Police

December 12, 1983

The Honorable Thomas F. Walker
The Kansas House of Representatives
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Walker:

I, Dwain I. Kelsch, Chief of Police of Newton, Kansas have been asked to support some action concerning the issuance of handicapped persons license plates and temporary identification cards.

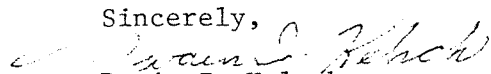
As of now a handicapped person can receive either a handicapped person's license plate or temporary identification card but not both. I can see where this creates problems for especially the handicapped person who has only the license plate. If he is transported in someone else's vehicle, those areas designated as handicapped parking can not be used by those people. Therefore, a definite hardship can be imposed on the handicapped person. If there is inclement weather conditions, the person having only the identification card is also in trouble. Enforcement personnel have trouble seeing the identification tag which is to be displayed by hanging it on the rear view mirror on the inside of the vehicle due to the windows being steamed over.

I would recommend that anyone eligible for a permanent handicap license plates should also be issued a temporary identification card to be used only when being transported by another person. These people would definitely see that this identification card was not misused.

I feel the only solution to a temporary identification card being better identified is possibly a decal that could be placed in the lower left hand corner of the rear window. This decal could be made of material that was moisture resistance as it would have to be placed on the outside of the window.

Any support that you might lend this cause would be greatly appreciated. These are a very fine group of people and are one of our most highly supportive groups in our community.

Sincerely,


Dwain I. Kelsch
Chief of Police