

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS

The meeting was called to order by Representative Robert H. Miller at
Chairperson

1:30 a.m./p.m. on February 12, 1985 in room 526S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative Barr - E

Committee staff present:

Lynda Hutfles, Secretary
Mary Torrence, Revisor's Office
Russ Mills, Research

Conferees appearing before the committee:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miller.

Representative Long made a motion, seconded by Representative Eckert, to approve the minutes of the February 7 meeting. The motion carried.

HB2158 - Special license plate or ID card for visually handicapped.

Representative Vancrum explained to the committee why he introduced this piece of legislation. Under this bill to the definition of "handicapped person" another section is added. "Handicapped Person" also includes any person who is determined and certified by a physician to have visual impairment of both eyes, either temporarily or permanently, to a degree that restricts mobility or requires assistance. See attachment A.

Hearings were concluded on HB2158.

The meeting was adjourned.

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

February 12, 1985

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
VICE-CHAIRMAN: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
MEMBER: ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION
JUDICIARY

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TESTIMONY OF ROBERT VANCURUM

HB 2158 - PERMITTING HANDICAPPED LICENSES AND
IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR FAMILIES OF
PERSONS WITH SEVERE VISION IMPAIRMENT

I want to thank the chairman of the committee for allowing me to have some time today to present HB 2158. A constituent of mine who is a disabled veteran has a severe visual handicap in both eyes. Although he is not blind, he is legally blind for most purposes under federal law, but is not qualified for a total disability under VA standards. Since he and his wife are senior citizens, and he is required to walk with a cane or walker, his wife is required to chauffeur him to work, church, shopping and any other activity. When she does so, she is required to drop him off and park her car many blocks across sometimes poorly lighted parking lots.

If she does not drop him off, he is required to navigate traffic, curbs, snow and many other obstacles he has difficulty seeing.

Current Kansas Law permits two types of disabled permits. The first which is set forth in the bill is 8-132A which requires permanent physical disability requiring a wheelchair, permanent loss of a leg or permanent disability caused by a disabled heart, arthritis or some type of orthopedic or neurological impairment. I would point out that none of these

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handicaps requires that the person still be capable of obtaining a driver's license, so the fact that my constituent cannot obtain a driver's license is irrelevant.

There is another section which permits disabled veterans to obtain a handicapped permit, but it requires a finding of total disability by the Veterans Administration, which is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain. I therefore introduced HB 2158 on this issue. I regret that Mr. Svoboda was unable to be here today because of the road conditions and job requirements. I'll be happy to attempt to answer any questions.