

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

The meeting was called to order by Bill Morris at \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on February 6, 1985 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Sen. Francisco.  
Sen. Walker and Sen. Vidricksen were excused.

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Research Department  
Louise Cunningham, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Lt. Col. Bill Moomau, Kansas Highway Patrol  
Sen. Roy Ehrlich  
Sheriff Roy Dunnaway, Jefferson County  
Chief Dean Akings, Police Department, Great Bend

On a motion from Sen. Hayden and a second from Sen. Thiessen the Minutes of February 5, 1985 were approved. Motion carried.

HEARING ON S.B. 52 - Relating to the duty of the driver of a vehicle to give notice of an accident to the police when damage is \$500 or more.

PROPOSERS

Sen. Ehrlich said this bill was requested by members of law enforcement in his district. The present amount of all property damage is \$300 and this has been the amount for the past 7 years. At this time they were requesting the amount be raised to \$500 because at today's prices it does not take much to have \$500 in damages. This would include both vehicles if it were a two-car accident. He said there was a tremendous amount of paperwork involved. He had received a memorandum dated February 5, 1985 from John W. Smith, Chief Administrator, Driver Licensing & Control, Department of Revenue stating they did not oppose raising the amount to \$500. A copy of this memorandum is attached. (Attachment 1).

Col. Moomau of the Kansas Highway Patrol, said it was very difficult to determine the extent of damage at the scene of an accident and also, repair bids can vary by several hundred dollars. They investigate and file reports on all accidents to which they have been summoned. They support S.B. 52. A copy of Col. Moomau's statement is attached. (Attachment 2).

Sheriff Roy Dunnaway said he had been to a Kansas Sheriffs' Association meeting last week and they had voted to support S.B. 52. He said he would be in favor of raising the amount to \$1000.

Police Chief Dean Akings, Great Bend, said he had attended a recent meeting of the Kansas Police Chiefs' Association and this piece of legislation was discussed. It was a unanimous decision to support S.B. 52. He said \$500 was not quite enough and he would like to see the amount raised to \$1000.

A motion was made by Sen. Thiessen to raise the amount on line 25 to \$1000. Motion was seconded by Sen. Martin. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Sen. Thiessen to recommend S.B. 52, as amended, favorable for passage. Motion was seconded by Sen. Hayden. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Date 2-6-85 Place 254-E Time 9<sup>00</sup>

GUEST LIST

PLEASE PRINT

NAME

ADDRESS (City)

ORGANIZATION

lt. Col Bill Moorman

Topeka

KHP

Chief DEAN AKINGS

GREAT BEND

Police Dept.

Capt. Don Pickett

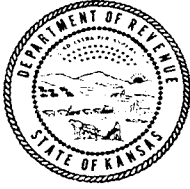
Topeka

KHP

Sheriff Roy DUNNaway

Perry

JFSO



RM 138N

*Kansas*  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

State Office Building  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66626

TO: Senator Roy M. Ehrlich  
FROM: John W. Smith  
Chief Administrator  
Driver Licensing & Control  
DATE: February 5, 1985

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Smith", is written to the right of the "FROM:" field.

The division does not oppose raising to \$500 the amount of damage arising from an accident before it is reportable. It was last raised in 1978 to three hundred dollars (\$300.). Any accident involving death or injury is still reportable regardless of the amount of physical damage.

I do not have any figures to quote but, with today's costs, it does not require much damage before the cost is \$500 particularly where there are two vehicles involved since the reportable amount is the total damage to all property not just one vehicle. Most minor damages occur in cities during bad weather. Since local law enforcement personnel cannot work all the accidents on such days, it is probable that the division may not be receiving such reports even at the \$300 level.

JWS:bmh

cc: Robert Bugg  
Bill Edds  
Harley Duncan

ATT. (1)  
2/6/85

(2)

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES

SENATE BILL 52

PRESENTED BY THE KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL  
(Lt. Colonel E. P. Moomau/Captain Don Pickert)

February 6, 1985

APPEARED IN SUPPORT

The Patrol supports raising the reporting requirement on total property damage in an accident from \$300.00 to \$500.00.

In today's economy, particularly considering the cost of vehicles and repair of the same, the advanced figure is more realistic. In recent years this requirement was amended from \$100.00 to \$300.00 and, we assume, for this same reason.

Additionally, investigating officers, on many occasions, have difficulty determining the extent of damage, particularly when at the scene it cannot be determined if damage occurred which is not apparent on the surface, and consequently investigate the accident to cover that possibility.

Also, it is not unusual to solicit repair bids and have those bids vary by several hundred dollars.

Our experience would indicate that the majority of persons involved in an accident involving only property damage desire an investigation to aid in any ensuing claims process or civil litigation.

The report is also vital to the police authority for purposes of determining causation factors and possible violations of the traffic statutes.

The Patrol has, and continues to investigate all accidents to which we are summoned for the above stated reasons.

We would urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

2/4/85  
ATT. (2)