

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Transportation

The meeting was called to order by Rex Crowell at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 6, 1986 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Joan Adam - Excused.

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Legislative Research
Donna Mulligan, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Max Moomaw
Representative Harold Guldner
Mr. Bill Curtis, Kansas Association of School Boards

The meeting was called to order by Representative Crowell and the first order of business was a hearing on HB-2787 concerning owners of registered vehicles which unlawfully pass school buses.

Representative Moomaw, co-sponsor of HB-2787, briefed the Committee on its contents. He said a civil penalty in the amount of \$10 will be charged to a driver whose license tag is identified as having passed a stopped school bus.

Representative Harold Guldner, co-sponsor of HB-2787, briefed the Committee on the bill, and requested it be passed favorably.

Mr. Bill Curtis, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in opposition to HB-2787. (See Attachment 1)

Mr. Curtis said the Delegate Assembly of the Kansas Association of School Boards adopted a resolution in December 1985 which opposes legislation which would require school bus drivers to report vehicles which illegally pass school buses.

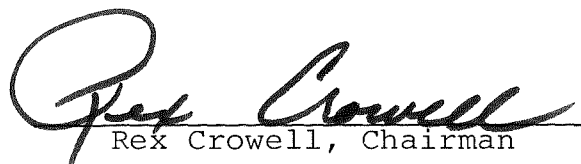
Mr. Curtis reported that in 1983, the National Safety Council reported 55 fatalities nationwide in school bus accidents. He said 10 of the fatalities were passengers but the other 45 were pedestrians approaching or leaving a loading zone. Mr. Curtis added that of those 45 fatalities, more than half were killed when hit by the bus they regularly rode, which would seem to indicate that school bus drivers need to devote their attention to those pupils approaching or leaving the loading zone rather than watching for vehicles which might illegally pass the bus.

Mr. Curtis stated the primary objection on the part of the KASB is the mandatory language contained in HB-2787 which requires the school bus driver to report cars passing buses, and places them in a situation where they have no discretion and no opportunity to exercise judgment.

Chairman Crowell asked Mr. Curtis if he would support the bill if the reporting was made optional by changing the word "shall" to "may". Mr. Curtis said he would then support the bill.

The hearing on HB-2787 was concluded.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.


Rex Crowell, Chairman

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

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TESTIMONY ON H.B. 2787
before the
House Transportation Committee

by

Bill Curtis, Assistant Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 6, 1986

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we appreciate the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the 303 member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards. H.B. 2787 would require school bus drivers to report vehicles which illegally pass school buses.

The Delegate Assembly of the Kansas Association of School Boards adopted a resolution last December which opposes legislation that would required school bus drivers to report vehicles which illegally pass school buses. KASB believes that school bus drivers should not be placed in such a position. While they certainly have an obligation to report such vehicles, it seems to place the burden in the wrong place to statutorily require it.

In 1983, the National Safety Council reported 55 fatalities nationwide in school bus accidents. Ten of those fatalities were passengers but the other 45 were pedestrians approaching or leaving a loading zone. Of those 45 fatalities, more than half were killed when hit by the bus they regularly rode. That tragic fact would seem to indicate that school bus drivers need to devote their attention to those pupils approaching or leaving the loading zone rather than watching for vehicles which might illegally pass the bus. Thank you for listening to our concerns. We would urge you not to report H.B. 2787 favorably.

*H. Transp. 2/6/86
Attach. 1*