

Approved 4-11-86
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

The meeting was called to order by Sen. Bill Morris at
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on April 2, 1986 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Sen. Francisco was excused.

Committee staff present:

Arden Ensley, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Louise Cunningham, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rep. E. Shore
Mary Harper, Healy
Harley Duncan, Secretary, Department of Revenue
Lt. Bill Jacobs, Kansas Highway Patrol

HEARING AND ACTION ON H.B. 2852 - Design of license plates.

Rep. Shore said this bill would keep the county designation on the left hand side of the license plate like they are now. He said he had been contacted by many people who desire to keep the county designations as they are now. This would not interfere with the SAM 123 numbering system. A copy of his statement is attached. (Att. 1).

Mary Harper, Healy, spoke in support of the bill. She said she drives a lot and likes to see where the tags are from. They are farmers and like to know when there is a strange car in the neighborhood. Also, around hunting time it is helpful to know where the hunters are from. She also said she didn't like everyone having white tags.

Harley Duncan, Secretary, Department of Revenue, spoke in opposition to the bill. He said the reasons for the license plate which has been selected are the simplicity and the cost. The primary purpose of a tag is as a law enforcement tool and the one selected rates the highest. A copy of his statement is attached. (Att. 2).

Lt. Jacobs, Kansas Highway Patrol, said the SAM 123 is all that will be entered into the computer and is all that is necessary. The county designation is not useful because the owner can move from one county to another and the county designation could be five years old. If it is embossed it cannot be changed but a decal can be changed. The county designation would be helpful to local police.

A motion was made by Sen. Hayden to recommend H.B. 2852 favorable for passage. The motion did not receive a second.

The Chairman said this was possibly the last scheduled meeting for this session. He thanked the members for the work they had done and especially those who had carried bills on the floor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Date 4-2-86 Place 254-E Time 900

GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

Lt. BILL JACOBS TOPEKA KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL

Rep Eugene Shore

H. DUNN Topeka Dept of P

Harold B. Furutani " " "

Mary Harger Healy

Andrew R. Jurgin Topeka KDOT

EUGENE L. SHORE
 REPRESENTATIVE, 124TH DISTRICT
 GRANT, W. HASKELL, MORTON,
 STANTON AND STEVENS COUNTIES
 ROUTE 2
 JOHNSON, KANSAS 67855
 (316) 492-2449



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTERS AND
 TECHNOLOGY
 PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS AND
 BENEFITS
 TRANSPORTATION
 KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

STATEMENT PRESENTED ON H.B. 2352 TO THE HOUSE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE ON APRIL 2, 1986 BY
EUGENE L. SHORE, REPRESENTATIVE 124TH DISTRICT.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

House Bill 2352 simply keeps our county designations on our license plates in the same location and same size as they now are.

KSA 1985 Supplements 3-147 provides for the SA4-123 numbering system. House Bill 2352 does not preclude SA4-123, nor does it demand it. Neither does HB 2352 require the county designation be embossed in the metal. It simply says the county designation be the same size as they are now, that being 1 1/4 inch by 1 1/4 inch, and in a vertical position on the left side of the license plate.

In visiting with people across the State, I find almost unanimous support for having the county designation in large letters so one can readily recognize the county the car is from. I have support from County Treasurers, individual Highway Patrolmen, Highway Patrol dispatchers, County Sheriffs, as well as the public at large.

Some of the comments I have heard are: I have young children and I want to be able to recognize a car that is not a local car when it is in the neighborhood. Farmers have told me they want to know where hunters are from who are hunting on their land, out of state people have told me they want to know what part of Kansas the car is from when they spot a Kansas tag. I want to be able to readily recognize cars and people from the counties I represent whether in State or out of State. The county designation establishes identity. Recent editorials have given support for contributing to education and entertainment.

ATT. ①
 S.T.U. 4/2/86

The County designation adds a more personal touch to your license plate and simply gives the person who owns it a sense of receiving something for his money, much like buying a name brand as opposed to a generic brand.

HB 2852 allows the use of the almost universal SA-1-123 numbering system for economy of production of license plates and efficiency in identification by law enforcement personnel. Advantages of maintaining county designations are localizing the identity of a vehicle, emphasizing the location and identity of counties, and a personal pride in your community by advertising your state and county wherever you go.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Bill Morris, Chairman
Senate Committee on Transportation and Utilities

FROM: Harley T. Duncan, Secretary
Kansas Department of Revenue

RE: House Bill 2852 - License Plate Design

DATE: April 2, 1986

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on HB 2852 which alters the current law regarding the numbering license plates. Instead of converting to the three alpha/three numeric or SAM 123 system when we reissue plates in 1988, we would be required to place on the plate (or plates) the stacked two character county identifier currently utilized. While it is unclear from the bill, I am told that this two character county identifier need not be embossed and need not be a part of the registration number. The Department of Revenue must respectfully oppose this legislation. We do so for two reasons. Those are the same reasons we supported the adoption of SAM 123 in 1984.

First, we must remember that the primary purpose of a license plate is as a law enforcement tool. It is intended to uniquely identify each vehicle in the simplest and most memorable fashion possible. A 1979 survey of over 3,300 law enforcement agencies in all 50 states indicated that the SAM 123 format was the most highly rated format from a law enforcement perspective. SAM 123 was given a rating of 3.50 on a scale of 0 to 4 with 4 being the best design. Other than SAM 123 or 123 SAM, no plate design was rated higher than a 2.0 in the survey. Over 40 jurisdictions use the SAM 123 format or a minor variation thereof. The Kansas Highway Patrol supports the use of the SAM 123 format.

Under the bill, our tag would consist of two stacked alpha characters, followed by six other characters in either a 3 alpha, 3 numeric (SAM 123) format or a 3 numeric, 3 alpha (123 SAM) format. The effect will be to use all seven positions on the tag. There will be no space on the tag and all the characters will run together. This is one of the problems of the current numbering system we were attempting to avoid. I submit to you that the tag called for in this bill is no improvement over our current system from a law enforcement perspective. For those who are concerned about the county of residence being denoted on the tag, I would remind you that current law requires that a two character county identifying decal be placed on all plates even when we switch to the SAM 123 format. We intend to place that decal in the upper left hand corner as we have positioned it on the personalized license plate.

ATT. ②
S.T+U 4/2/86

The second reason for adopting the SAM 123 format is the administrative cost savings and simplicity it brings. When SAM 123 was adopted in 1984, we estimated that it would reduce our manufacturing costs by a net of \$.02 per plate as well as reducing our annual inventory carrying costs by \$70,000 annually and reducing the cost of the inventory destroyed at the time of a mass reissuance by over \$200,000. We currently must manufacture and maintain an inventory for over 1,700 types of plates or combinations of letters. Under SAM 123, we can reduce this to about 15.

House Bill 2852 will reduce these savings by some order of magnitude. We believe it would be best to emboss the county identifier which will require that we maintain a separate inventory of plates for each of the 105 counties. In addition to increasing our manufacturing and inventory carrying costs, this will also probably require that the inventories be maintained in the office of the County Treasurer. We had anticipated that with the statewide numbering system under SAM 123, only one inventory would be maintained at Center Industries.

Another cost factor to take into consideration is that the new license plate design we will use in 1988 is based on the center space being blank. In that space we have placed a wheat stalk that **does not** interfere with the reading of the registration number. We used the wheat symbol because of what we sensed to be the public desire for this statewide symbol. With HB 2852, the wheat stalk would be obliterated and should probably be taken off the plate. We have 250,000 square feet of sheeting with the wheat stalk in it on hand at Center Industries so that we can begin manufacturing the new issue on or before July 1, 1986. The sheeting costs \$.97 per square foot.

In short, the SAM 123 format is desirable from a law enforcement perspective and prudent from a fiscal and administrative standpoint. HB 2852 does nothing but add to the costs of the plate and detract from its law enforcement purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear. I would be glad to attempt to answer any questions.