

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary K. Hayzlett at 1:30 p.m. on February 13, 1997 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Julian Efirid, Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Buchanan, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Marty Vanier, DVM, Executive Director, Kansas Agricultural Alliance
Mary Jane Stattelman, Chief Counsel, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Leslie Kaufman, Assistant Director, Public Affairs Division, Kansas Farm Bureau
Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
John C. Bottenberg, Kansas Ethanol Association
Representative Dan Johnson
Representative David Adkins
Representative Kenny A. Wilk
SFC Gary L. Augustine, USAR, Ellis, KS
Ralph Snyder, Assistant Adjutant, Kansas American Legion
Darrell Bencken, Veterans Foreign Wars
Betty McBride, Director, Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue

Others attending: See attached list

SB 2 - Extending the ethyl alcohol incentive program

Hearing was opened. The Chair called on Marty Vanier, Executive Director, Kansas Agricultural Alliance, who testified in support of the program as it provides a market for Kansas-grown feed grains and makes a positive contribution toward our environment and economy. (Attachment 1)

Mary Jane Stattelman, Chief Counsel, Kansas Department of Agriculture, testified in support of the program as the commercialization of ethanol as an octane enhancer and environmentally friendly fuel has been recognized at national levels. For Kansas to continue to play a role in ethanol production and to work with potential new facilities, this incentive fund is necessary. (Attachment 2)

Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Farm Bureau, presented testimony in support of **SB 2** as the program is important to the state of Kansas and its agricultural industry. Ethanol use impacts our air quality by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the production also creates another market for Kansas grain crops. (Attachment 3)

Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, testified in support of the program as ethanol is a value added agricultural product and provides good jobs for our citizens and good markets for our grain. Ethanol production allows the process to occur when quality of grain is undesirable for other uses. In ethanol production, only the starch of the grain is used, and therefore does not take protein out of the food supply or the feed supply. Today there are several vehicles powered with 85% ethanol or E-85, and E-85 fueling stations. Ethanol is not cheaper than current price of crude oil, but oil does not support the overall best interests of Kansas. (Attachment 4)

John C. Bottenberg, Kansas Ethanol Association, testified in support of the program as it increases stronger markets for Kansas grain, creates employment opportunities for Kansans, maintains and enhances the

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, Room 526 -S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on February 13, 1997.

development of additional in-state production and creates a cleaner environment for Kansas. With the incentive fund, the money has been reinvested within the industry. Approval of the bill, would extend the existing program for another 4 years, July 1, 2001. (Attachment 5)

Written testimony was provided by Joe Lieber, Kansas Cooperative Council, as it is important to continue the agricultural ethanol alcohol incentive program. (Attachment 6)

Hearing was closed on **SB 2**.

HB 2170 - Distinctive license plates for veterans of military services

Hearing was opened. The Chair called on Representative Dan Johnson to introduce **HB 2170** requesting a license plate to honor our veterans. Anyone who is a veteran, who has received an honorable discharge, would be able to have this distinctive license plate on their automobile if they would like to pay for it, and no cost to the taxpayers. Representative Johnson supports Representative Adkin's suggestions. (Attachment 7)

Representative David Adkins supports this bill, but would like to propose an amendment to consolidate the special license plates into one basic design and utilize them as a tourist device. This basic design in which Kansas as a graphic symbol would appear similarly in all representations across any specialized license plate and regular license plate. Once Kansas comes up with a graphic basic design, such as Kansas Simply Wonderful graphic, then carry this over to every base plate, so when the name Kansas appears on a plate, it will be in the same place whether it be a specialized plate or generic plate. With the one basic design, a decal could be used for the different branches of the military and educational institutions. Rep. Adkins also suggested one plate possibly for all veterans--Kansas Veterans Plate, and would suggest charging an additional fee that would be deposited into a citizenship development fund, proceeds of which veterans organizations could seek grants to fund citizenship educational programs, such as Girls State and Boys State. This proposed amendment would limit the state to producing one or two plates.

Representative Kenny A. Wilk presented testimony in support of **HB 2170** and supported Representative Adkin's suggestions. (Attachment 8)

SFC Gary L. Augustine, USAR, testified in support of **HB 2170**. He feels this plate will not only identify the person is a veteran, but also from Kansas. (Attachment 9)

Ralph Snyder, Assistant Adjutant, Kansas American Legion, would like to support the "U.S. Military Veteran" plate as it would cover all branches of the military. The American Legion would be willing to offset the costs to produce a Medal of Honor tag. (Attachment 10)

Darrell Bencken, Veterans of Foreign Wars, agreed with Ralph Snyder that a "U.S. Military Veteran" plate would be acceptable to his organization and this would eliminate the need for several different plates for the branches of the military. (Attachment 11)

Betty McBride, Director, Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue, said she would like to react to Rep. Adkin's testimony. She advised that if we are going to allow several different tags, several different logos, different emblems, then we need to look at a different way of doing business. What the Division of Vehicles is looking at is providing a generic Kansas tag everyone would use as Rep. Adkins explained. We would cut down on the numbers and letters. We would have 2 letters, 3 numbers which would leave a place at the side where you could put any emblem you wanted. Ms. McBride is asking the committee to wait until the Department reissues tags in 2001 before we make any changes. At that time, they will come out with a new design for a generic tag, comply with all of the requests that the Transportation Committee authorizes. Her department does not have the capability to provide a large number of special tags.

Ms. McBride testified that the number of individuals eligible for this plate for veterans fluctuated from 385,000 in 1995 to 258,000 in 1996, making it difficult to predict the number of persons who would be eligible each year. The Division of Vehicles would have to be prepared to issue over 100,000 tags not knowing how many veterans would purchase them. It would be necessary to redesign the plates and would request to wait until 2001 to make this design and produce a generic tag with special decals. If a decision is made to go ahead and make these plates, an additional FTE for FY 98 will be \$21,785 to handle this bill. (Attachment 12)

Ms. McBride suggested not combining Rep. Adkins bill and **HB 2170**. She would like to keep the two bills separate if the committee is considering delaying **HB 2170** until 2001.

Concern was expressed by committee that we have delayed this type of legislation every 5 years for the

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veterans--until new plates are issued--but still has not been accomplished, and not wanting to tell the veterans they have to wait now until 2001.

Ms. McBride advised if the committee decides to do a plate now for the veterans, it would be best to issue a new Veterans plate, not a decal. At 2001, then look at going with decals and separating them out according to different branches of the military. Ms McBride asked that all bills which are presented before the committee and passed do not take effect until January 1, 1998, as they are updating their computer systems at that date.

Hearing was closed on **HB 2170**.

Minutes of the February 5 meeting were presented for approval or correction. Representative Dillon made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Representative Dreher seconded motion, and motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 1997.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 13, 1997

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mike Meacham	Ks Automotive Recycles Assn.
Leslie Kaufman	Ks Farm Bureau
Marty Vanier	KS Ag Alliance
Tom Whitaker	Ks Motor Carriers Assn
Ken Ball	Economic Lifelines
MIKE KELLEY	Ks Motor Carrier Assn.
Gary Augustine	"self"
Gilbert J. Augustine	Self.
Harold T. Denholm	Pos + 9271 V.F.W.
DARRELL BENCKEN	STATE ADJUTANT KANSAS VFW
Quilb Bunn	KDOT
George V. Skewan	Ks VFW
Tami C. Taulbert	Kc Recruiting Battalion
Betty McBride	KDOR
Pick Scheibe	KDOR
Ken Clark	KDOR
John Kolman	Ks ethanol
Heather Kolman	Ks ethanol
Mary E. Turkington	Ks Motor Carriers Assn.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 13, 1997

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jamie Clover Adams	Governor's office
Jacqueline Scott	
Danya Rae Robl	
Sue Schulte	Ks Corn Growers Assoc.
Tere White	Ks. Corn Growers Assoc
Amby Kinne	
Chuck Bredahl	Adm. General's Dept
Mary Jane Stattelmaier	KS Dept of Ag
Kelly Kuetala	City of Overland Park



KANSAS AGRICULTURAL ALLIANCE

STATEMENT OF THE
KANSAS AGRICULTURAL ALLIANCE
BEFORE THE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
GARY HAYZLETT, CHAIRMAN
REGARDING S.B.2
FEBRUARY 13, 1997

The Kansas Agricultural Alliance (KAA) is a coalition of agribusiness organizations that spans the full spectrum of Kansas agriculture, including crop production, livestock production, horticultural production, suppliers, allied industries and professions.

The Alliance supports S.B. 2 extending the Agricultural Ethyl Alcohol Incentive Program. The program provides a market for Kansas-grown feed grains and makes a positive contribution toward our environment and economy.

Others will present specific information on the impact of the ethanol industry, but it is important to note that the growth in production of ethanol has increased the use of feed grains from 4 million bushels in 1987 to over 22 million bushels in 1996. This use of corn and sorghum has increased the market for these grains and increased real income to Kansas farmers an additional \$3.5 million to \$7 million. This increase in real income has benefited not only farmers, but has also increased economic activity in the sectors associated with production of these grain crops and ethanol production.

The Kansas Agricultural Alliance urges you to support S.B.2 and extend the Agricultural Ethyl Alcohol Incentive Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee.

*House Transportation
Attachment 1
2-13-97*

STATE OF KANSAS

BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR
Alice A. Devine, Secretary of Agriculture
901 S. Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1280
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FAX: (913) 296-8389



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - LEGAL SECTION

Mary Jane Stattelmann
Chief Counsel

AGRICULTURAL ETHYL ALCOHOL INCENTIVE PROGRAM
Senate Bill No. 2

Presented to:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

February 13, 1997

*House Transportation
Attachment 2
2-13-97*

STATE OF KANSAS

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

TESTIMONY

February 13, 1997

AGRICULTURAL ETHYL ALCOHOL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Good afternoon, Chairman Hayzlett and members of the committee, I am here on behalf of Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Allie Devine.

Ethanol is an excellent example of processing basic Kansas agricultural commodities, corn, grain sorghum, and wheat and adding value to them prior to exporting the finished product from Kansas. The commercialization of ethanol as an octane enhancer and an environmentally friendly fuel has been recognized at national levels. Ethanol plays a major part in the federal Clean Air Act which is in place across the country in those areas with serious air pollution problems.

Kansas ethanol plants, currently four in number, have capacity to produce approximately 55 million gallons of alcohol annually. This represents a nearly 450 percent increase in Kansas ethanol production since 1987. For 1996, Kansas ethanol production translates into use of approximately 22 million bushels of corn and milo that ethanol producers purchase from Kansas farmers and local suppliers. It also provides over 100 quality jobs in smaller Kansas communities.

Kansas participates in several organizations at the national level, like the Governor's Ethanol Coalition, which encourages the use of renewable, alternative fuels. Also, as you may be aware, other states besides Kansas have similar ethanol incentive funds, with most of the other states' production incentives being higher than the incentive in Kansas. For Kansas to continue to play a role in ethanol production, and to work with potential new facilities, this Kansas incentive fund is necessary.

The Kansas agricultural ethyl alcohol incentive program plays an important role in the use of agricultural commodities. The Graves' Administration supports efforts to enhance markets and opportunities for Kansas agricultural commodities. We ask your continued support of this program through passage of Senate Bill 2.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I would be happy to try and answer any questions.



PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Re: SB 2 - Agricultural Ethanol Incentive Program Extension

February 13, 1997
Topeka, Kansas

Presented by
Leslie Kaufman
Assistant Director
Public Affairs Division

Chairman Hayzlett and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of SB 2. I am Leslie Kaufman and I serve as the Assistant Director of Public Affairs for Kansas Farm Bureau.

Over the years, Farm Bureau has supported ethanol programs, both on the state and federal levels. We were long-time supporters of the ethanol fuel tax exemption. When it was phased out, we gave our support to the agricultural ethyl alcohol incentive program. We have also supported two previous extensions of this program.

We believe the Agricultural Ethyl Alcohol Incentive program is important to the state of Kansas and its agricultural industry and we support the continuation of this program through the extension proposed in SB 2.

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The voting delegates of Farm Bureau, who are agricultural producers, adopted policy this past November at their 78th Annual Meeting supporting measures, such as this incentive program. We encourage the promotion of research, production, and sales of crop-based alternative fuels. Our members believe these types of fuels have great potential for crop consumption, crop price enhancement, addressing environmental concerns, and reducing U.S. reliance on foreign oil.

For example, ethanol use impacts our air quality by reducing carbon dioxide emissions. It is estimated Kansas could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 20 percent through ethanol use.

Ethanol production also creates another market for Kansas grain crops. Nearly 35 million bushels of Kansas grain were utilized for ethanol production from 1994 to mid-1996.

These are just two of the many ways ethanol production and use benefits Kansas. It is a valuable program for this state, and as such, we respectfully request the committee consider this bill favorably.

We thank you again for the opportunity to share with you the policy of our farm and ranch members and our support for SB 2.

(The full text of our policy on Crop-based Alternative Fuel Production is attached. We are also seeking support from the federal government for continuation of the federal credit tax on ethanol. Our policy which addresses that issue is included in our statement on Highway Development. It is also attached.)

Kansas Farm Bureau Policy

Crop-based Alternative Fuel Production

AG-11

We believe ethanol and biodiesel have great potential for reducing U.S. reliance on foreign oil, for addressing environmental concerns, and for crop consumption and crop price enhancement. We strongly support ethanol and biodiesel production and encourage consumer education concerning crop-based alternative fuel use, octane enhancement and emission reduction .

We support tax credits and other appropriate measures which will promote research, production and sale of crop-based alternative fuels.

Highway Development and Funding

TU-5

We believe safety of drivers and vehicle passengers will be enhanced by maintaining present weight and length limits on tractor-trailers and motor carriers.

We support the concept of highway users paying, through gallonage taxes, vehicle registration fees and sales taxes on motor vehicles, for the construction and maintenance of highways, roads and bridges. We oppose any downgrading of existing U.S. highway designations in Kansas or the shift of any funds now designated for highways.

We believe the federal government should provide a tax credit equal to the federal motor fuel tax for ethanol and biodiesel.

Toll road and turnpike construction in Kansas should not be contemplated unless a feasibility study on any such project shows the toll road or turnpike will pay its own way.

We are opposed to the use of State General Fund revenue to guarantee toll road or turnpike bonds, or to provide for highway construction or maintenance.

Highway design and planning should avoid, where feasible, diagonal routing. Diagonal cuts are most disruptive to agricultural operations. Highway design, development and construction should assist rather than deter economic development in Kansas communities.

Senate Bill #2

Testimony of Jere White
Executive Director
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
February 13, 1997

I appreciate this opportunity to give a few brief comments on behalf of Kansas corn and grain sorghum farmers in support of the proposed extension of the Kansas Ethyl Alcohol Producers Incentive Fund. Our producers have a long standing history of support for all programs that provide an opportunity to grow the Kansas ethanol industry, including the support found in Senate Bill #2. The tremendous increase in Kansas ethanol plant production capacity indicates that as a state we have been successful. This has been a cooperative effort between growers, ethanol producers and the State of Kansas itself. We can all take pride in that success.

Ethanol is a value added agricultural product. Ethanol production provides good jobs for our citizens and good markets for our grain. Ethanol production even allows that value added process to occur when the quality of the grain is undesirable for other uses. Kansas enjoys a good rate of return on it's investment in the ethanol industry. An industry not unlike farming in the fact that it purchases inputs from one sector, agriculture and sells largely on another, energy. The incentive fund has been a stabilizer for this industry.

Does an incentive fund really make a difference? Merely look across the border to Missouri. They have consistently lower grain markets and a higher population base. Two obvious ingredients for success in the highly competitive world of ethanol production. Yet Kansas has four ethanol plants and Missouri has none. The difference has been the

commitment of Kansas resources to the ethanol industry. Yes, these resources include the incentive fund. But there are many more. Governor Graves is a member of the twenty-one state Governors' Ethanol Coalition. The Kansas Department of Agriculture and Kansas Corporation Commission have provided support for the expansion of ethanol markets. Our corn and grain sorghum farmers through the Kansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Commissions and Associations have funded and supported a variety of ethanol market development efforts over the years. And the ethanol producers themselves have supported financially and otherwise these same efforts.

Four years ago when I last gave testimony to the committee in support of this program, I was the only Kansan driving a vehicle powered with 85% ethanol or E-85. Today there are several dozen such vehicles operating in Kansas, many in Topeka, with more to come. Kansans have been pioneers in this effort. USD-365, Garnett, operates three E-85 cars. They were the first school district in the nation to teach drivers education using this type of vehicle. The Anderson County Extension Council acquired an E-85 last spring, the first Extension Office in the nation to do so. Satanta Coop, in Haskell County, Kansas, purchased the first E-85 in the Farmland system. And Beckman Motors, Garnett, offered daily E-85 car rentals over three years ago...the first such program in the United States.

Last week Governor Graves helped us pass another milestone when he helped fuel our associations E-85 Taurus at the ribbon cutting of the first public E-85 fueling station in Kansas. It is located at the Topeka Truck and Travel Plaza or Roost Truck Stop at Wanamaker and Huntoon. This facility supplies fuel to the federal and state E-85 fleet, as well as others in need of the fuel.

The continuation of all of these efforts is in the best interest of the State of Kansas. We respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill #2. Thank you.

BOTTENBERG & ASSOCIATES

JOHN C. BOTTENBERG

PLEASE SUPPORT

SB 2

RENEWAL OF IN-STATE ETHANOL PRODUCER'S INCENTIVE FUND

- Extends current program to July 1, 2001. (4 years)
- Funding \$2.5 million annually. (Included in Governor's Budget Recommendation)
- Kansas Ethanol Production
 - 1987 - 11 million gallons annually
 - 1992 - 27 million gallons annually
 - 1996 - 56 million gallons annually
- Production facilities located in Atchison, Colwich, Garden City and Leoti.
- Employees - direct
 - 1987 - 50
 - 1992 - 117
 - 1996 - 130
- Grain used in production at capacity
 - 1987 - 3.3 million bushels
 - 1992 - 11 million bushels
 - 1996 - 22 million bushels
- Producers have expanded into cattle and fish feeding, using the by-products of alcohol production.
- Economic Development proposal
 - Stronger markets for Kansas Grain.
 - Create employment opportunities for Kansans.
 - Maintain and enhance the development of additional in-state production.
 - Create a cleaner environment for Kansans - both present and future generations.

Thank you.

*House Transportation
Attachment 5*

1-28-97

2-13-97



Testimony on SB 2
House Transportation Committee
February 13, 1997
Prepared by Joe Lieber
Kansas Cooperative Council

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I'm Joe Lieber, Executive Vice President of the Kansas Cooperative Council. The Council has a membership of over 200 cooperative businesses; with nearly 130 of them being local farm supply cooperatives. Most of these farm supply members sell petroleum products. Three of our regional cooperatives, CENEX, Farmland Industries and the National Cooperative Refinery Association, refine fuel.

The Kansas Cooperative Council feels that with the volatile world markets, it is important to continue the agricultural ethanol alcohol incentive program.

We encourage you to support SB 2.

Thank you.

*House Transportation
Attachment 6
2-13-97*

DAN JOHNSON
REPRESENTATIVE, 110TH DISTRICT
BARTON, ELLIS, ROOKS, RUSH
AND RUSSELL COUNTIES
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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
ENVIRONMENT
INSURANCE
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TOPEKA
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

An act relating to motor vehicles; providing for distinctive license plates for veterans of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard

February 13, 1997
Topeka, Kansas

Presented by
Representative
Dan Johnson

Chairman Hayzlett and members of the House Committee on Transportation, I am Representative Dan Johnson. It is an honor for me to appear today to introduce House Bill No 2170.

Several veterans have contacted me and asked me to help to honor our veterans with a distinctive license plate. The idea of this bill is very simple and very broad. Anyone who is a veteran, who has received an honorable discharge, should be able to have this distinctive license plate on their automobile if they would like to pay for it.

There will be no cost to the tax payers. The cost to produce the tag will need to be determined and that amount will be added to the regular license fee.

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I am flexible as to the design of the plate. I visualize a distinctive plate similar to the one for the Purple Heart. I have discussed this with Representative Adkins and I am comfortable with his ideas.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear and speak on behalf of this bill. I will be glad to stand for questions.

State of Kansas



TOPEKA

House of Representatives

Testimony for H.B. 2170

February 12, 1997

KENNY A. WILK

REPRESENTATIVE, 42ND DISTRICT
LEAVENWORTH COUNTY
701 S. DeSOTO RD.
LANSING, KANSAS 66043
(913) 727-2453
ROOM 174-W, CAPITOL BLDG.
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
(913) 296-7655

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
K-12 SCHOOL FINANCE

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for your timely consideration of H.B. 2170. I come in support of special license tags for our veterans of military service. H.B. 2170 would provide a small token of **appreciation** and **recognition** to those who serve in the name of national defense. In times of peace we can easily forget the sacrifice that so many have made. Enactment of H.B. 2170 would provide daily a gentle reminder that many among us have successfully guarded our shores.

In drafting H.B. 2170 we realize that we have cast a wide net. Several thousand individuals would be eligible for these tags. In past years many such bills have been presented to the legislature only to learn that the potential number of participants would be too few to make the process work. H.B. 2170 offers the opposite challenge. The intent of H.B. 2170 would be to provide a pool of potential recipients large enough to allow our administrators to find new and creative solutions for providing special license tags. Additionally, H.B. 2170 is intended to be funded by user fees. It should not place any additional burden on the SGF (state general fund).

The veterans who follow me today will speak of the importance of this legislation. I support their cause and respectfully request the support of the committee for H.B. 2170. Thank you.

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SUBJECT: LICENSE PLATES FOR VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**TESTIMONY BY: SFC GARY L. AUGUSTINE USAR
ELLIS, KANSAS**

It is both an honor and a privilege to be here today to give testimony for the people like myself that have served in a foreign war, for this great country.

Today is marking the start of an opportunity for the state of Kansas to show the rest of the country it's appreciation for it veterans, by having a special license plate for them.

As you know , by your own service to the state of Kansas, you share a special camaraderie with your counterparts, service to your government and it citizens.

This is also true for the service men and women that have served in a foreign wars.

Picture your self in another state on vacation or business. You see another Kansas license plate. Immediately you share something in common with that person, being a citizen of this great state of Kansas.

Lets take that one more step, he or she has a veterans of foreign wars license plate from Kansas. The plate will not only identify this person as a veteran but it will also tell the world that the heart of the United States, Kansas, is proud of it veterans of foreign wars.

The military is said to be the largest sorority and fraternity in this country. With no significant cost to the state, in fact, this special project may even generate revenue for the state. We will be able to draw on this in helping sell Kansas to other veterans of foreign wars.

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We also have an obligation to tell our young people that the price of freedom is not free. As we travel the highways and roadways of Kansas with the veterans of foreign wars license plates, it will act as a reminder to all of us, of that price of freedom . By showing special recognition to the veterans we will have in place an incentive for these young people that inevitably will serve in future foreign wars.

Many of your fathers and grandfathers have served in foreign wars, maybe a brother or a sister also may have served in a more recent conflicts like Vietnam or Desert Storm. What better way to recognize the service they have done for our freedom.

In closing , I can't help thinking that the state that gave the world one of the most important and well known veteran of foreign wars ever, Dwight D. Eisenhower, would miss this opportunity to give his comrades this special recognition that we are here today asking for.

THANK YOU!

AMERICAN LEGION TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO
THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
ON HOUSE BILL 2170

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to appear before your Committee today in support of HB 2170.

As I'm certain you know, Kansas has honored various categories of veterans with special license tags such as American Ex-prisoners of War, Pearl Harbor survivors, recipients of the Purple Heart for those wounded in Combat, and the Kansas National Guard. HB 2170 gives the Legislature the opportunity to honor and pay tribute to all veterans who have served this nation.

Last year The American Legion testified in opposition to bills which would have authorized license plates recognizing those who have served in the Armed Forces during a certain era, in specific locations, and/or for a specific length of time. Our reasoning was The American Legion has always believed a war era veteran is a veteran regardless of where or for how long he or she served in the military.

We also feared such authorization would open a Pandora's Box in that almost every group imaginable would solicit license plates honoring their organization. Indeed some of you may recall before last year's hearings were over this Committee heard suggestions to include several other groups and civilian occupations.

Thus we offered as a possible solution with regard to veterans groups seeking distinctive license plates would be to authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles, working in cooperation with veterans groups, to establish distinctive license plates by using the State's existing vanity of personalized plates.

That is; authorize the addition of a two or three inch veterans organization decal similar in composition to the county

*House Transportation
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identification sticker currently placed on license tags. Provided that a deadline of perhaps a year in duration be established to allow each veterans group to directly reimburse the Division of Motor Vehicles all production costs for a minimum of five hundred (500) such decals and all future decal orders in multiples of five hundred (500).

Each veteran should then be allowed one (1) organizational decal per license plate which could be placed either to the viewers extreme left or right side of the tag with the remaining spaces utilized in the normal fashion for personalized or vanity plates.

There has been speculation as to whether or not such decals would last the life of the license plate; should that be the case, then the veterans organizations should be required to reimburse the state's initial screen printing set up charge in lieu of purchasing the aforementioned decals.

I might take a moment or two to alert you to Senate Bill 117 which calls for the authorization of a special license plate for recipients of the Medal of Honor. I believe recipients of the Medal of Honor should be given a special license plate at no cost especially since sales of the plates would have almost negligible impact on their production costs. Thus The American Legion wholeheartedly endorses the concept of SB 117. HB 2170 is an appropriate bill but it does not address thousands of Kansas veterans who served in two or more branches of the Armed Forces for which they are proud of each.

I would ask this Committee to consider amending HB 2170 in such a manner as to authorize veterans organizations distinctive license plates and perhaps even be required to pay a one time fee to help offset the set up costs to produce a Medal of Honor tag. In other words the State of Kansas could pay tribute to our Medal

of Honor recipients by authorizing the tag, and veterans organizations can also pay tribute to these same individuals by helping to pay for their tag's design and set up cost.

Respectfully,

Ralph Snyder, Assistant Adjutant
Kansas American Legion

license plates that promote

Pride

BY M. CONRAD AGRESTI

All 50 states honor veterans with commemorative license plates. Eight states even offer VFW plates. Here's a comprehensive rundown on what is available.

Ever since America began its love affair with the automobile, drivers have been embellishing the appearance of their vehicles with bumper stickers or other signs which often reflect a travel destination, political candidate, organizational affiliation, college or cause.

Within the last decade, this practice has developed into an ever-expanding personalized license plate (or tag) program in every state.

Many states have designed license plates for fraternal organizations, college alumni, environmental awareness, handicapped persons and veterans.

While issuance of specialty plates often yields additional funds for state treasuries (ranging by state from \$5 to \$70 per plate), many of the license plates honoring veterans are issued exempt from additional licensing and processing fees.

VFW Posts and Departments around the nation have undoubtedly played a significant role in convincing their respective state authorities to develop these specialty plates as a symbol of pride, respect and appreciation for the sacrifices of resident veterans.

Many plates come with images of medals, service ribbons, organizational insignia or Old Glory displayed in full color.

WOUNDED, HEROES, POWS

Virtually every state offers a license plate to individuals who have been awarded the Purple Heart. Some states, such as South Dakota and Louisiana, issue these plates without any additional fees.

Recipients of the *Medal of Honor* have unique plates available in many states, usually free of charge. Virginia and Maryland offer special plates for recipients of the *Bronze Star* and *Silver Star* medals.



Medal of Honor
Army



Medal of Honor
Air Force



Purple Heart



Ex-Prisoner of War



Disabled Veteran



Pearl Harbor Survivor



Armed Forces Veteran



National Guard



National Guard

House Transportation
Attachment II
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Medal of Honor



Medal of Honor



Combat Wounded Vet



Ex-Prisoner of War



Purple Heart



WWII Vet



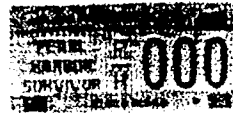
Korean War Vet



Vietnam War Vet



Former Prisoner of War



Pearl Harbor Survivor



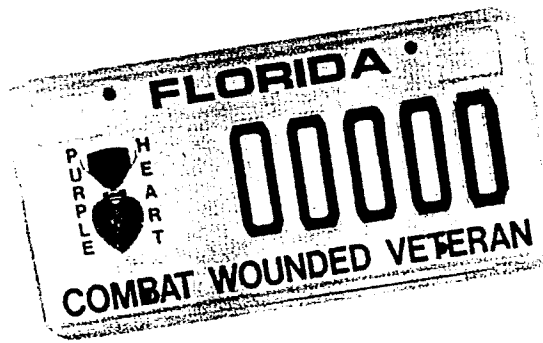
National Guard



Military Reserve



Disabled Veteran



Shown here are examples of some of the license plates available from New Mexico, Idaho, Minnesota and Florida. For a complete listing of all 50 states, see the chart on the next page.



Pearl Harbor Survivor

Massachusetts) offer a Legion of Valor plate for recipients of the Medal of Honor, DSC, AFC or Navy Cross.

ers. Many states offer these plates free of charge to eligible veterans.

Former Prisoners of War have distinctive license plates available in almost every state, often exempt from additional fees. A number of states extend the eligibility for POW plates to unmarried surviving spouses of POWs, as well.

CAMPAIGNS AND WARS

A commonly available plate is one for Pearl Harbor survivors, however, surprisingly few states offer plates for other World War II veterans.

All of Rhode Island's veterans plates are transferable to unmarried surviving spouses.

One which does, Alabama, has separate plates, by service, for veterans of each of the WWII theaters of operations (European/African/Middle East, Asiatic/Pacific and American) as well as for veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Surviving spouses and parents of servicemen and women who lost their lives while on active duty, peacetime or war, are recognized in Illinois with unique Gold Star plates. Oklahoma and Mississippi offer a Killed in Action plate for the next-of-kin of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Connecticut and Oklahoma offer distinctive plates for Iwo Jima survivors and Oklahoma also offers a D-Day survivor plate.

Disabled veterans have their own plates available in most states. However, eligibility for these plates may be determined by a stipulated degree of disability, which varies widely from state to state—from 10% in some states up to 100%. And receiving VA assistance for a specially equipped motor vehicle in oth-

Many states issue special plates to recognize Korean War veterans and Virginia offers a separate plate to survivors of the Chosin Reservoir, too. A number of states offer plates to veterans of World War I, and the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars. Wisconsin offers veterans of Somalia their own distinctive plate.

Continued on page 43

In addition to those decorations mentioned above, Wisconsin recognizes recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Arman's Medal and Coast Guard Medal with distinctive plates. Still other states (e.g., California and

WHAT'S AVAILABLE STATE BY STATE

This chart lists license plates available from the states. Due to ever-changing government regulations, veterans should check with their own state's motor vehicle licensing division for the most up-to-date information.

ALABAMA

AD, ANG, KW, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, R, RM, VVA, Atomic/Nuclear veteran, BB, VW, WWII American Campaign, WWI Asiatic Pacific Campaign, WWII European/African/Middle Eastern Campaign.

ALASKA

DV, NG (active or retired), Pearl, PH, POW, V

ARIZONA

MOH, PH, POW

ARKANSAS

DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RM, RMM, RV

CALIFORNIA

LV (MOH, DSC, AFC, NC), Pearl, PH, POW, Veteran Organizations (non-specific)

COLORADO

AL, DAV, DV, MM, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, V, VFW

CONNECTICUT

AL, AR, DAV, DV, IJSA, MC, MOH, MOPH, PH, POW, 76th DIV, USCGA, V, VFW

DELAWARE

DV, MIA, Pearl, PH, POW

FLORIDA

DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, PVA, POW, RV, V

GEORGIA

DAV, DV, MOH, NG, PH, POW, V, VFW

HAWAII

PH, V

IDAHO

ANG, DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV (including CG)

ILLINOIS

ANG, DV, GS, KW, MOH, MR, NG, Pearl, PH, POW

INDIANA

DV, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, V

IOWA

DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW

KANSAS

DV, NG, Pearl, PH, POW

KENTUCKY

DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV

LOUISIANA

ANG, DS, DV, KW, MM, MOH, MR, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, V, VVA, WWII

MAINE

DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, POW, V

MARYLAND

AF, AL, BS, CAP, COA, DAV, DV, FRA, JWV, KW, MCL, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, ROA, RV, SF, SS, SSV, 29th DIV, USCGA, VFW, VVA, VSM

MASSACHUSETTS

DV, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, VLV (DSC, AFC, NC)

MICHIGAN

MCL, MOH, Pearl, PH, POW, NG, RV, USCGA, Veteran Plates: WWI, WWII, KW, VW, G, L, P, PG

MINNESOTA

ANG, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, Veteran: WWI, WWII, KW, VW, GW, Laos

MISSISSIPPI

CV, DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, RMM, SSKIA

MISSOURI

AD, ANG, CI, DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW

MONTANA

DV, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, V

NEBRASKA

DV, Pearl, PH, POW

NEVADA

DAV, DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW

NEW HAMPSHIRE

DV, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, V

NEW JERSEY

AL, DAV, DV, MCL, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, SS, SV, TCS, VFW, VVA

NEW MEXICO

DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW plates convey to surviving spouse, V, VAM

NEW YORK

AL, ANG, CWV, DAV, DV, EPVA, GSM, JWV, KW, MCL, MOH, NG, NM, Pearl, PH, POW, VFW, VVA, VW

NORTH CAROLINA

ANG, LV, MOH, MR, NG, Pearl, PH, RNG, RV, USCGA, USCGR

NORTH DAKOTA

DV, POW

OHIO

DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, VFW, plates for Commander and Adjutant of Congressionally chartered veterans organizations, CV, V, WWI, WWII, KW, VW, L, G, P, PG

OKLAHOMA

AD, ANG, BS, D-Day, DAV, DFC, DSA, DV, IJ, KW, MOH, NG, NK/KIA, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, SS, V, VVA, VW, WWII

OREGON

DV, FMDA, MM, NG, Pearl, POW, PVA, USS/POW, VVA

PENNSYLVANIA

AL, DV, GW, KW, MCL, MOH, MR, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, SDV, VVA, VW, VFW

RHODE ISLAND

NG, PH, POW, WWI, WWII, KW, VW, G, P, DS, L, TS, PG. All plates convey to unmarried surviving spouse.

SOUTH CAROLINA

ANG, DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, V

SOUTH DAKOTA

DV, NG, Pearl, PH, POW

TENNESSEE

DAV, EE, MOH, MOV, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, USA, USAF, USCG, USMC, USN

TEXAS

AD, DS, DV, KW, MCL, MOH, MR, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, USCGA, VW, WWII. Plates convey to surviving spouses of AD, PH, POW

UTAH

ANG, NG, Pearl, PH, POW

VERMONT

NG, Pearl, POW

VIRGINIA

AL, BS, CAP, CRS, DV, KW, MAF, MOH, NG, NGR, Pearl, PH, POW, RV, SS, TROA, USCGA, V, VVA, VW

WASHINGTON

DAV, DV, MOH, Pearl, PH, POW plates convey to surviving spouse, V

WEST VIRGINIA

ANG, CV, DV, MOH, NG, Pearl, PH, POW, V

WISCONSIN

AD, AFC, AM, ANG, CGM, DFC, DSC, DSM, DV, KW, LM, MCM, MOH, NC, NG, NM, Pearl, PG, POH, RV, S, SM, V, VW, WWI, WWII

WYOMING

ANG, DV, NG, Pearl, PH, POW

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

MEDALS

Air Force Cross (AFC)
Airman's Medal (AM)
Bronze Star (BS)
Coast Guard Medal (CGM)
Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)
Distinguished Service Award (DSA)
Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)
Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)
Gold Star (GS)
Legion of Merit (LM)
Marine Corps Medal (MCM)
Medal of Honor (MOH)
Navy Cross (NC)
Navy Medal (NM)
Purple Heart (PH)
Silver Star (SS)
Soldier's Medal (SM)
Vietnam Service Medal (VSM)

WARS AND CAMPAIGNS

Battle of the Bulge (BB)
Chosin Reservoir Survivor (CRS)
Desert Storm (DS)
Grenada (G)
Gulf War (GW)
Iwo Jima (IJ)
Korean War Veteran (KW)
Laos (Laos)
Lebanon (L)
Panama (P)
Pearl Harbor (Pearl)
Persian Gulf (PG)
Somalia (S)
Taiwan Straits (TS)
Vietnam War (VW)
World War I (WWI)
World War II (WWII)
SPECIAL STATUS
Active Duty (AD)
Air National Guard (ANG)
Army Reserve (AR)
Atomic Veteran (AV)
Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

Combat Infantry (CI)
Combat Veteran (CV)
Disabled Veteran (DV)
Enemy Evadee (EE)
Merchant Marine (MM)
Military Assault Force (MAF)
Military Retired (MR)
Missing in Action (MIA)
National Guard (NG)
National Guard Retired (NGR)
Naval Militia (NM)
Next of Kin of KIA (NK/KIA)
Prisoner of War, Ex- (POW)
Reservist (RV)
Retired Military (RM)
Retired Merchant Marine (RMM)
Retired National Guard (RNG)
Severely Disabled Veteran (SDV)
Silent Service (SSV)
Special Forces (SF)
Surviving Spouse of KIA (SSKIA)

U.S. Air Force (USAF)
U.S. Army (USA)
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
U.S. Marine Corps (USMC)
U.S. Navy (USN)
Unmarried Surviving Spouse of POW (USS/POW)
Veteran (V)
Veteran Amputee (VAM)
ORGANIZATIONS
Air Force Assn. (AF)
American Legion (AL)
Catholic War Veterans (CWV)
Commissioned Officers Assn. (COA)
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Assn. (EPVA)
First Marine Division Assn. (FMDA)
Fleet Reserve Assn. (FRA)
Gold Star Mothers (GSM)

Iwo Jima Survivors Assn. (IJSA)
Jewish War Veterans (JWV)
Legion of Valor (LV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
Reserve Officers Assn. (ROA)
Submarine Veterans (SV)
The Retired Officers Assn. (TROA)
Tin Can Sailors (TCS)
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA)
U.S. Coast Guard Reserve (USCGR)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
29th Division Assn (29 DIV)
76th Division Assn (76 DIV)

License Plates

Continued from page 41

Michigan offers plates for veterans of Panama, Grenada and Lebanon (but only for the 1958 and 1982-84 expeditions, not the 1976 Beirut evacuations).

Rhode Island issues plates to veterans of all the conflicts mentioned above (except, as of this writing, Somalia), extends Lebanon eligibility from 1982 through December 1987 (as with Michigan, 1976 Lebanon veterans are excluded) and also recognizes Taiwan Straits expeditionary duty (from Aug. 23, 1958, through Jan. 1, 1959).

No states currently recognize expeditionary or combat veterans of the Persian Gulf for the periods 1979-1981 or 1987-1990.

With its *Laos War Veteran (Allied)* license plate, Minnesota is the first state to recognize immigrant veterans, specifically Laotian Mung tribesmen who fought as U.S. allies during the Vietnam War, with a distinctive license plate.

UNITS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Many other states offer a generic *Veteran* plate. West Virginia is one of a few states which recognizes *combat veterans*

through a special *Combat* sticker on their veteran plates.

Missouri offers a special *Combat Infantry* plate for recipients of the Combat Infantry Badge, but does not have a companion plate for Navy and Marine veterans awarded the Combat Action Ribbon.

Ohio includes a full-color replica of the applicable service ribbon for *in theater* (i.e. VFW eligible) veterans. *Active duty military*, *Reservists* and *National Guard* members can get special plates in many states, often with their specific service listed, and sometimes without additional fees.

Idaho and Montana are among a growing number of states which include the *Coast Guard* among the armed services available for listing on plates. The *Coast Guard Auxiliary* is also finding itself increasingly embellished on license plates.

Eight states (Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania) currently offer special VFW plates displaying the familiar Maltese Cross insignia and/or the words *Veterans of Foreign Wars*.

Other veterans associations offered include *Atomic/Nuclear Veterans* (Alabama), *29th Division Assn.* and *Special Forces Assn.*

(Maryland), *Tin Can Sailors* (New Jersey), *First Marine Division* (Oregon), *76th Division, U.S. Army Reserve* (Connecticut), *U.S. Submarine Veterans*, *Vietnam Veterans of America*, *American Legion* and *Marine Corps League* (several states).

RECOGNIZING AND LOBBYING

Whether there is an additional cost associated with obtaining veterans license plates, it can't be equated with the price paid by veterans for eligibility.

These plates should be widely obtained and displayed as a reflection of pride in military service and achievement. But also to demonstrate to society just how many veterans there are among the population.

The side benefit of displaying special license plates is that by recognizing America's significant number of veterans, hard-earned benefits may be better appreciated and thus preserved.

Wide-ranging display of these plates not only honors veterans, but constitutes grassroots lobbying in its simplest form. ☺

M. CONRAD AGRESTI is a life member of Post 3150 in Arlington, Va. He spent a year compiling this information.

Natural Disasters Relief

STATE OF KANSAS
Bill Graves, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
John D. LaFaver, Secretary

Betty McBride, Director of Vehicles
Kansas Department of Revenue
915 SW Harrison St.
Topeka, KS 66626-0001



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Division of Vehicles

TO: The Honorable Gary Hayzlett, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Betty McBride, Director
Kansas Division of Vehicles

Date: February 13, 1997

Subject: House Bill 2170

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am Betty McBride, Director of the Kansas Division of Vehicles. I want to express my appreciation to this committee for the opportunity to appear before you today, to present testimony on House Bill 2170.

House Bill 2170 will create a new distinctive license plate for all veterans of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, who have received an honorable discharge.

The Commission on Veteran Affairs indicates that as of July 1, 1995, there were 385,000 individuals who were eligible for this type of specialty plate. Beginning July 1, 1996, that figure had dropped to 258,000 eligible individuals. With this type of fluctuation, it is difficult to predict the number of persons who will be eligible each year. The volume of eligible persons qualified to receive this type of specialty plate is extremely important, as it will require the Division of Vehicles to look at re-designing its existing plate design. Although there is no way to determine how many veterans will take advantage of the opportunity to obtain a veteran tag the division must be prepared to issue over 100,000 tags.

Currently, there is only space available on the tag for producing five numbers and a designation for any type of specialty logo. The Division would consider using the existing SAM 123 format with some type of decal or silk screen. Using this format would require that the logo be placed between the alpha/numeric on the plate. Areas available for display of a logo is very limited on the tag. Space is required for: top left (County situs), top right (year and month decal), and bottom center (weight strips for heavy trucks). Making the changes I have just discussed would be more realistic at the time the Division re-issues plates, which is likely to occur in the year 2000 or 2001. Specialty plates require a unique logo for each plate, this requires that each specialty plate designed begin with the number 1. Kansas now has five specialty plates which require a duplication of the registration numbers. This creates concerns for the Division and for law enforcement. It also reduces the integrity of the plate which is to identify a particular vehicle and its owner.

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Passage of House Bill 2170 would require the Department to revisit and seriously consider using a generic background on all license plates issued. Using the generic background in conjunction with the SAM-123 format on all plates would provide (17,575,000 combinations) for usage by the Division. A 2 alpha/3 numeric system would provide *676,000 combinations) which could be used for issuing specialty plates. A logo decal could be used for all specialty plates, which could be applied at the time a tag was issued. A logo decal would not be as permanent as a silk screen logo and the logo would not be sealed by the special dipping done at the time the tag is manufactured. However, this process would reduce the cost of producing different types of plates and eliminate duplication of registration numbers.

The Division could produce different types of logo decals and issue those decals to the county treasurers. When an applicant applied for a specialty plate the county treasurer would issue a SAM-123 type plate, or a 2 alpha/3 numeric plate and affix the appropriate decal on the plate.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee if House Bill 2170 receives your favorable consideration every effort will be made to comply with the wishes of the Committee. However, one additional FTE OA III will be needed to administer the requirements of this bill. Cost of an additional FTE for FY 98 will be \$21,785.00.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. I would now stand for any questions.