

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ben Vidricksen at 9:05 a.m. on February 16, 1998 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department  
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes  
Marian Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See attached list

### SB 417: Drivers licenses - age restrictions

There is great concern regarding this issue. The National Transportation and Safety Board, in addition to American Automobile Assn. and several other entities, is urging us to do something relating to a graduated drivers license. It is not an issue pulled out of the air. In states which have passed this type law, there has been a remarkable decrease in fatalities from automotive crashes.

Members discussed the proposed compromise; grandfather clause - those currently in the system would not be affected; learners permit at age 14; two moving violations while on a restricted license and license would continue to be restricted to age 17; 40 hours of adult (21 years of age or older) supervised driving with 10 hours at night, and midnight to 5:00 a.m. restriction. The midnight to 5:00 a.m. restriction will not apply to farm permits. Farm Bureau has not changed their position on the 20 required hours. AAA has not changed their position on the minimum of 40 hours required supervised driving.

Discussed Senator Tyson's proposed amendment which basically leaves everything the way it is under current law except changes supervised 50 hours to 20 hours, leaves age restrictions alone. It would also have the two moving violations. Discussion returned to the Farm Bureau objections. Under current law - a farm permit can be issued to anyone who lives on 20 acres. It can also be issued to anyone age 14 who signs an affidavit that they work on a farm.

Senator Jordan moved to amend the bill in accordance with AAA compromise recommendations. The way farm learner's permit law is written they would have to get their supervised driving experience prior to obtaining a learner's permit. Members and AAA had not dealt with that problem in this law. Farm kids would have to go in at age 14 and obtain an instructional permit, just the same as city kids - get their 40 hours of supervised driving and then get their farm permit. It was never intended to impose an added burden on farm instructions. Senator Jordan advised that his proposal only pertained to the 40 hours in urban communities. He has no problem with taking the hour requirement out of the farm permits. Senator Tyson offered a substitute motion to accept his amendments as outlined in the preceding paragraph. This leaves present law as is, adds 20 hours of supervised driving, and 2 violations. It would also grandfather in current holders of restricted licenses. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. By a show of hands the vote was four for and four against. The Chair cast the deciding vote in favor of the amendment. Motion carried. Senator Huelskamp moved to amend SB 417 to exempt farm permits from the 20 hours supervised driving requirement. Senator Salmans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Senator Vidricksen proposed making it a "moving violation" for drivers on a restricted license to carry unauthorized passengers as set forth in current law. In other words, conviction of violation of current law, makes it a "moving violation." Senator Harrington moved to so amend SB 417. Senator Tyson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Senator Harrington moved to pass the bill out favorably as amended. Senator Tyson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Senator Vidricksen will carry the bill on the floor.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Jordan moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 1998. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 1998.

