

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Ben Vidricksen at 9:05 a.m. on February 18, 1999 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 F. Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Michael Byington, Envision

Others attending: See attached list

SB 154: Public transportation, access to public accommodations

Continued discussion on **SB 154**. As requested, research staff reported on contacts with some of the mall managers who verbally reported low passenger usage of buses that did arrive and also referred to damage to mall parking lots. The managers promised to contact their home offices for written response to the questions asked by the Committee regarding this matter. Michael Byington, Envision, reported on his additional research. Johnson County has significantly cut back on public transportation so this lack of transportation doesn't even make it an issue there. Wichita is severely affected by present mall policy and the Topeka matter is one of limited number of routes servicing the mall. Mr. Byington stated they have alleged all along that it is a problem with mall management companies dealing in the larger communities with buses bring elements into the malls that might not be desirable for the other shoppers and that perhaps is the root of the problem as much as the weight of the buses.

Although understanding and empathic with the problem as explained in the need for this bill, committee members, nevertheless were reluctant to deal with this issue on a statewide basis when it could perhaps be dealt with at the local/city level. Apparently no other state does this, the fine seems a little high. The Chair requested staff to prepare a letter to cities setting forth this problem and requesting information as to how they could/would suggest dealing with this matter. Also, mall management should be provided with a copy of this letter. Emphasize the bill is not dead and if the need arises action can be taken this year. Members will be provided a copy of the letter before it is sent out, so this will be a committee effort. Michael Byington will be provided with a copy of the letter also.

Chairman Vidricksen reminded members of the Joint Senate & House Transportation Committee noon meeting in Room 313-S

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled 9:05 a.m. meeting will be February 22, 1999.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 1999

NAME	REPRESENTING
Carl Hill	Ks Motor Carriers Assn.
Michael Byington	Envision.