

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rep. Gary Hayzlett at 1:40 p.m. on March 15, 2000 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Joann Flower, excused  
Representative Andrew Howell, excused  
Representative Phill Kline, excused

Committee Staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes  
Hank Avila, Research Department  
Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Tim Huelskamp  
James Franklin, Liberal, Kansas  
Chuck Yunker, Adjutant, American Legion, Department of Kansas  
Ken McNeill, ABATE of Kansas  
Sheila Walker, Director of Vehicles

Others attending:

See attached list

**SB 611 - license plates for United States military veterans**

Senator Huelskamp spoke in support of **SB 611** gave a short history of why this bill was introduced. He presented a handout showing the proposed license plate. (Attachment 1)

James Franklin of Liberal presented testimony in support of **SB 611**. He asked for the same recognition for veteran motorcycle riders that is afforded the veteran who drives a car or truck and asked the committee to pass **SB 611** favorably. (Attachment 2)

The next proponent to speak was Charles Yunker, Adjutant for the American Legion. He said passage of **SB 611** would authorize the issuance of distinctive motorcycle license plates to U.S. military veterans in the same manner as automobile and truck plates are currently issued. This bill, he concluded, would eliminate what many veterans feel is a discrepancy in the current law. (Attachment 3)

Ken McNeill, ABATE, testified in favor of **SB 611**. He stated that a majority of the men, and a large minority of women, who are members of ABATE are veterans. Many of the members use their motorcycles for their main means of transportation and for a sizable minority it is the only means of transportation and to exclude them from being able to display a veterans tag would be both unkind and disrespectful to them as veterans. (Attachment 4)

There were no other proponents listed. There were no opponents listed.

Sheila Walker, Director of Vehicles, presented testimony regarding **SB 611**. She told the committee that from an administrative standpoint, it would not be difficult to manufacture U.S. Veteran plates for motorcycles, however, because of the small area that is available for the logo, the motorcycle plates might be difficult for law enforcement to identify. In addition, once these plates are seen by other Kansans, they would most likely get requests from other specialty plate holders wanting to put their plates on motorcycles. She concluded the Division of Vehicles could implement the requirements of this bill with no major administrative problems if this was the desire of the committee. (Attachment 5)

Following questions from the committee Chairman Hayzlett closed hearings on **SB 611**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, Room 519-S Statehouse, at 1:40 p.m. on March 15, 2000.

**HB 2923 - concerning the Kansas City area transportation district and authority compact; relating to financing**

**HB 2923** was passed as amended on February 22, 2000 and pulled from the Consent Calendar and re-referred to the Transportation Committee on March 6, 2000. Chairman Hayzlett called on Representative Ballou to explain a technical clean up that was necessary to clarify the intent of the bill. Representative Ballou made a motion to amend **HB 2923** by striking everything after the word "submitted" on page 1, line 42 to "and" on page 2, line 1. This was seconded by Representative Powers and the motion carried. Representative Ballou made a motion to pass **HB 2923**, as further amended, seconded by Representative Long and the motion carried.

**SB 540 - purchasing multiple demonstration permits by dealers**

Chairman Hayzlett called for discussion and final action on **SB 540**. Representative Johnston made a motion to pass **SB 540** favorably, seconded by Representative Ballou and the motion carried.

**SB 611 - license plates for military veterans**

With approval of the full committee, Chairman Hayzlett called for discussion and final action on **SB 611**. Written testimony was presented by Representative Shari Weber which addressed an amendment which she was in support of. (Attachment 6) Her amendment would include distinctive license plates for motorcycles for public safety members - law enforcement officers and firefighters.

Representative Grant made a motion to amend **SB 611** to include all distinctive license plates, seconded by Representative Johnston and the motion carried.

Upon questioning from the committee Sheila Walker stated the \$40 fee is for collegiate tags only - the veteran tags do not have this fee. She also stated the Division would be unable to make the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline if all distinctive license plates would be included and asked for a January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Representative Humerickhouse made a motion to amend **HB 3004, distinctive license plates for Kansas foundation for agriculture in the classroom**, into **SB 611**, seconded by Representative Johnston and the motion carried.

Representative Ballou made a motion to include all public services and to go into effect January 1, 2001, seconded by Representative Aday and the motion carried. Representative Powers wished his "no" vote recorded.

Representative Aday made a motion to pass **SB 611** as amended, seconded by Representative Long and the motion carried.

Wildlife and Parks furnished the committee with a report showing the number of boating accidents and fatalities contributed to alcohol which the committee had requested at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the House Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2000 in Room 519-S.

# HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: March 15, 2000

NAME	REPRESENTING
Sen. Tim Hrebshon	
KEN MENNELL	ABATE OF KS INC.
Matt Boring	
Cheri Swayne	KDWP
Charles M Yunker	KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION
Jim KEELE	BWE.
Bill Watts	KDOT
Nina Atenico	Bottenberg Assoc.
Bill Brody	Ks Audit Consulting
James R. Franklin	
SUSAN Bechard	FOP
Jasbi Clark	Habitat
Tom WHITAKER	KS MOTOR CYCLE ASSN
CHAS MAURICH	ABATE OF KS / MOTORCYCLE RIDERS FOUNDATION,
Carol Maurich	ABATE OF KS / MAF
Norine Mann	ABATE OF KS
Sten Parsons	Sweet & Assoc.

**KANSAS**



**00000**

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**CYCLE**

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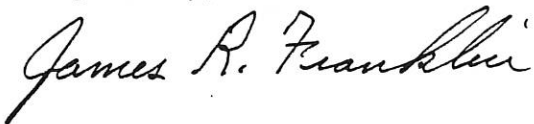
15 March 2000

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding a hearing on this issue of veterans license plates for motorcycles and thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee.

There are 250,300 veterans in the State of Kansas. Nearly a third of the population of the state is directly affected by veterans affairs, veterans, parents of veterans, spouses and children of veterans. There are over 44,000 motorcycles registered in the state. After every conflict there has always been a large influx of motorcycle riders. This would indicate that a large number of the registered motorcycles belong to veterans.

These veterans have been willing to go in harms way for the people of this state and our great nation and the down trodden around the world. They have been asked to forget the things they were taught as a youth that were wrong and have been taught to brake things and kill people. The threat that they will implement their training is what keeps the peace, if they implement their training there is on peace. They are asked to return to civilian life and forget all the training of braking and killing. I ask you to honor these veterans for having the courage to go in harms way for us and to have the self control to lay down the training and to return to civilized life. I ask no more recognition than is afforded the veteran who drives a car or truck. Please issue a license plate for the veterans who ride motorcycles in the Great State of Kansas.

Respectfully,



James R. Franklin  
Rt. 1 Box 203  
Liberal, KS 67901

House Transportation Committee  
March 15, 2000  
Attachment 2

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
ROOM 245-N  
SENATE BILL 611  
MARCH 15, 2000

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 611 which would authorize the issuance of distinctive motorcycle license plates to U.S. Military veterans in the same manner as automobile and truck plates are currently issued. My name is Charles M. Yunker and I am the Adjutant for The American Legion Department of Kansas.

As a veteran and a motorcyclist I urge your passage of SB611. More and more veterans of every war era are motorcyclists and in many cases cycles are the vehicle of choice for many veterans. The same day the Senate Transportation Committee held hearings on SB 611, The American Legion held its annual Legislative Appreciation Party during which it was announced SB 611 existed; I was amazed of the support our members expressed including over a half dozen who I did not realize were fellow cyclists.

This bill before you would eliminate what many veterans feel is a discrepancy in the current law. Again I urge your support of Senate Bill 611.



MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

My name is Ken McNeill, lobbyist for ABATE OF KS. I am here to testify in favor of SB 611, a bill to allow motorcycles to have veteran tags just as is possible for other motor vehicles.

When this bill was heard and passed last year we had questions about whether this included motorcycles and it was explained to us that it would because it said motor vehicles and that motorcycles are included in all motor vehicle laws unless specifically excluded which sounded reasonable enough at the time.

Since it didn't work that way this bill is necessary to be sure motorcycles are included. In ABATE of KS a majority of the men and a large minority the women are veterans. Many of our members use their motorcycle for their main means of transportation. For a sizable minority it is the only means of transportation they own. To exclude them from being able to display a veterans tag would be both unkind and disrespectful to them as veterans.

We ask the committee to report SB 611 favorably for passage.  
Thank you for your time.

Kenneth R. McNeill  
Lobbyist  
ABATE OF KANSAS INC.

House Transportation Committee  
March 15, 2000  
Attachment 4

Sheila J. Walker, Director  
Division of Vehicles  
915 SW Harrison St.  
Topeka, KS 66626-0001



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Hearing Impaired TTY (785) 296-3909  
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Division of Vehicles

TESTIMONY

**TO:** Representative Gary Hayzlett, Chairman  
House Transportation Committee Members

**FROM:** Sheila J. Walker, Director of Vehicles *Sheila J. Walker*

**DATE:** March 15, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 611

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Chairman Hayzlett and members of the House Transportation Committee, my name is Sheila Walker, and I serve as Director of the Kansas Division of Motor Vehicles. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony today regarding Senate Bill 611.

This bill allows motorcycle owners to display U.S. Veterans plates on their motorcycles. Applicants would be exempt from the \$40 personalized plate fee. In addition, because the plate is already displayed on autos and light trucks, the initial minimum order of 500 would not be required.

From an administrative standpoint, it would not be difficult to manufacture U.S. Veterans plates for motorcycles. But please take the following issues into consideration.

Motorcycle plates have traditionally not been included in previously authorized specialty plates due to the size of the plate (4" x 7"), and the small area that is available for the logo. Due to the size and detail of some of the logos, the motorcycle plates may be difficult for law enforcement to identify.

In addition, once Kansans see the U.S. Veterans plates on motorcycles, we're likely to get many requests from other specialty plate holders wanting to put other plates on motorcycles, such as:

- National Guard,
- Purple Heart,
- Ex-Prisoner of War,
- K-State,
- KU,
- Wichita State University, and
- Pittsburg State.

Again, the Division of Vehicles can implement the requirements of this bill with no major administrative problems. We appreciate your taking our concerns into consideration.

House Transportation Committee  
March 15, 2000  
Attachment 5



**STATE OF KANSAS**

**Rep. Shari Weber**  
934 Union Road  
Herington, KS 67449  
(785) 258-3526



**Capitol Building**  
Room 303-N  
Topeka, KS 66612  
(785) 296-7674  
weber@house.state.ks.us

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**  
**Assistant Majority Leader**

**TESTIMONY ON SB 611**  
**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**March 15, 2000**

Thank you, Mister Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to appear before you today to address Senate Bill 611. This bill, as written, is amending the current statute to include the use of distinctive license plates for military veterans on motorcycles, in addition to vehicles already specified in the statute.

Another bill, House Bill 2931, was introduced in the house on February 9<sup>th</sup> and has also been assigned to your Committee. House Bill 2931 is an act relating to motor vehicles, providing for distinctive license plates for persons who are firefighters. Early in the current legislative session, I worked with the Revisor of Statutes' Office on legislation to provide for distinctive license plates for persons who are public safety members. As used in my proposal, public safety members would mean a law enforcement officer, as defined by K.S.A. 22-2202, and amendments thereto, or any firefighter.

At this time, we have two pieces of legislation and one piece of proposed legislation which are similar and pertain to the same main subject - distinctive license plates. It is my desire to amend Senate Bill 611 to include distinctive license plates for public safety members - law enforcement officers and firefighters. I ask for your favorable consideration of this amendment to Senate Bill 611.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Shari Weber

House Transportation Committee  
March 15, 2000  
Attachment 6



STATE OF KANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Office of the Secretary  
900 SW Jackson, Suite 502  
Topeka, KS 66612-1233  
785/296-2281 FAX 785/296-6953



March 15, 2000

Representative Hayzlett, Chair  
House Committee on Transportation  
Room 519S  
Capitol Building  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Representative Hayzlett:

The committee had two questions yesterday that required research before answering. The first question involved whether alcohol contributed to any boating related fatalities. Alcohol is involved in one out of six accidents in Kansas. In the past three years, there were two fatalities that involved alcohol. One was a 28-year old person operating an open motor boat. The other operator was a 69-year old fisherman in a Jon boat.

The second question was to find out how many people under the age of 18 were involved in an accident in a boat, other than a personal watercraft.

Number and age of Operator in Motorboat and Sailboat Accidents, 1997 – 1999  
(Does not include personal watercraft numbers)

Under 15	Ages 16-18	Ages 19-25	Ages 26-39	Ages 40-59	60 and Over
2	2	6	11	6	1

Statistically, there are fewer youth operating boats than adults. By providing boater education to youth, theoretically, when that person reaches an age where they are susceptible to accidents, we will see a reduction in accidents.

KDWP feels Senate Bill No. 536 takes a solid step toward addressing rising recreational boating accidents, fatalities, and the costs associated therein. Please contact me if you have any further questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheri Swayne  
Boating Law Administrator

Cc: House Transportation Committee Members

House Transportation Committee  
March 15, 2000  
Attachment 7