

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary Hazylett at 1:35 p.m. on March 8, 2001 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Eber Phelps, excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor

Hank Avila, Research

Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dennis Schoenebeck, General Executive, Wichita YMCA

Brilla Highfill Scott, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas

Barbara Pringle, Executive Secretary, Kansas State Pupil Transportation Organization

Senator Les Donovan

Others attending:

See attached list

**SB 115 - requirement for church or daycare program buses**

Chairman Hayzlett opened hearings on **SB 115** and called on Dennis Schoenebeck, General Executive, Wichita YMCA, who spoke in support of the bill. He told the committee the safety of our youth is their number one priority and that is one reason their busses are yellow - not to alert drivers that they are a particular school district but that they are carrying children and caution must be taken because of this. He then listed seven practices they follow to ensure the safety of the children they transport. He said they service up to 500 youth per day with transportation through the After-School Programs, school swimming programs, summer camps and weekend leadership programs. Painting their 11 buses at a cost of \$30,000-\$35,000 would not be a good use of funds. With this bill, they will be able to continue and expand their efforts to serve the entire community. (Attachment 1)

There being no other proponents, and no opponents listed, Chairman Hayzlett closed hearings on **SB 115**.

There being no objections from the committee, and with the permission of Representative Phelps who was excused, Chairman Hayzlett opened the floor for discussion and final action on **SB 115**.

Representative Pauls offered an amendment which would add a new Section 1 and 2 and renumber Section 1 to become new Section 3 and renumber Section 2 to become new Section 4. This was seconded by Representative Dillmore. She explained this amendment would pick up some of the qualifications that were contained in **SB 21** which did not pass on the Senate side. She said this amendment was supported by the State Department of Education and also the United School Administrators.

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor, explained the bill and amendment further. He said prohibiting school districts from using vans as a school bus is a safety factor - the sides of the vans are not as thick and sturdy as a school bus. However, he said there is a lag time in this amendment which would allow school districts that have bought these vans they will still be allowed to use them for a period of 3 years so they will not have to go out and purchase other vans right away. It was his understanding the cost is not great between the purchase of an extended 12 passenger van and the actual little school buses.

Barbara Pringle, Executive Secretary, Kansas State Pupil Transportation Organization, stated they actually were wanting to change the law back to the federal standards that were in place before two years ago. She said after the Salina School District had accepted the donation of a 14 passenger van they couldn't find an insurance company that would insure them. This amendment would not exclude the use of cars or suburbans. What it is excluding is the 14 passenger van which has been designed as a cargo vehicle and they have put a few extra seats in them and called them a "passenger van". However, when they put the extension on they didn't add the crash protection they would have up in the front part of the regular passenger compartment.

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, Room 519-S of the Capitol at 1:40 p.m. on February 8, 2001.

Senator Donovan, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, explained one member was absent when they had the hearing on **SB 21** in the Senate Transportation Committee, three voted against it and three voted for it. He wanted to keep the bill alive because he thought it was an important bill so he voted to take no action on the bill. He said his main concern was the pupils sitting behind the last two seats in the van have no way to get out of the vehicle. He said he has requested Don McNeeley, Kansas Automobile Dealers, to send out a memo in his next newsletter to all the dealers to be extremely careful if they get requests from schools for these 14 passenger vans to not sell them to the school.

Brilla Highfill Scott, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas, said they were supportive of the amendment. She told the committee this amendment brings the Kansas statutes into line with federal regulations and in checking with school administrators across the state most are following the federal guidelines at the present time. (Attachment 2)

Representative Ballou made a substitute motion to pass **SB 115**, without the amendment, seconded by Representative Powell. The substitute motion failed

Chairman Hayzlett called for a vote on the amendment by Representative Pauls, which was seconded by Representative Dillmore and the motion carried.

Representative Humerickhouse offered an amendment which would make the effective date when printed in the Register, seconded by Representative Osborne and the motion carried.

Representative Osborne made a motion to pass **SB 115** favorably, as amended, seconded by Representative Levinson and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m. The next meeting of the House Transportation Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in Room 519-S.

# HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 3-8-01

NAME	REPRESENTING
Tom Whitaker	Ks Motor Carriers Assn
Barbara Pringle	Ks. Pupil Transportation Assn
LARRY E. Butcher	KS DOE
Kent Tyler	Collins Industry
Brilla Scott	USA
Michael White	Kearney Law Office
Steve Kearney	Collins Industry
Whitney Damron	Es Auto Dealers Assn.
Kathy Damron	YMCAs
Dennis Shorebeck	YmCA of Wichita





*Wichita YMCA. We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.*

February 6, 2001

**Metropolitan Office**

402 N. Market  
P.O. Box 3636  
Wichita, KS 67201  
(316) 264-4066  
Fax (316) 264-0757

Gary Hayzlett  
Chairman  
House Transportation Committee  
State House  
Topeka, KS 66612

**Robert D. Love  
Central Branch**

402 N. Market  
P.O. Box 3636  
Wichita, KS 67201  
(316) 264-9374  
Fax (316) 264-0757

Representative Gary Hayzlett:

We are responding to K.S.A. 72-8313 that requires community-based organizations to paint their busses a color other than yellow.

We are fully aware that the basis for this law is to protect the safety of children. We understand that in traffic the color yellow on a bus signifies that children are present and drivers need to show caution when approaching these vehicles.

**East Branch**

9333 E. Douglas  
Wichita, KS 67207  
(316) 685-2251  
Fax (316) 685-2254

Safety of our youth is our number one priority as well. Our busses are yellow not to alert drivers that we are a school district but that we too are carrying children and caution must be taken because of this. To ensure the safety of the children we transport, a number of practices are followed which includes:

**West Branch**

6940 Newell  
Wichita, KS 67212  
(316) 942-2271  
Fax (316) 942-4829

- All busses are identified as YMCA busses.
- No YMCA bus uses the flashing or rotating warning lights or the stop signal arm.
- All busses are on regular maintenance plan done by a certified mechanic.
- Trained drivers are required to do daily pre and post travel checks.
- Each bus is equipped with a radio communication system.
- Each bus is inspected annually for licensing requirements set by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- Other adult leaders while transporting youth accompany each driver.

**Richard A. DeVore  
South Branch**

3405 S. Meridian  
Wichita, KS 67217  
(316) 942-5511  
Fax (316) 942-8936

Our community depends on the collaboration of agencies, schools and government to provide our youth with enriching opportunities and experiences. One of our many services to our community is the transportation that we are able to provide our youth. We service up to 500 youth per day with transportation through our After-School Programs, school swimming programs, summer camps and weekend leadership programs. Raising money to repaint our 11 busses (cost being \$30,000 - \$35,000) would not be a good use of funds, or time, when our program needs continue to expand. Our community cannot afford to lose money or time while servicing our youth.

**Camp Hyde**

402 N. Market  
P.O. Box 3636  
Wichita, KS 67201  
(316) 264-1610  
Fax (316) 264-0757

We are in full support of Senate Bill No. 115. With this bill, we will be able to continue and expand our efforts to serve our entire community.

**Child Care / Camping**

402 N. Market  
P.O. Box 3636  
Wichita, KS 67201  
(316) 264-1610  
Fax (316) 264-0757

Sincerely,

Dennis Schoenebeck  
General Executive  
Wichita YMCA

House Transportation Committee  
March 8, 2001  
Attachment 1



Brilla Highfill Scott  
Executive Director  
bhsusa02@ink.org

M. Katharine Weickert  
Director of  
Administrator Services  
usak01@ink.org

Don Knowles  
Professional Development  
Coordinator

## **SB 115: Church and Daycare Program Bus Requirements**

Written Testimony presented to the  
Senate Transportation Committee

by

Brilla Highfill Scott, Executive Director  
United School Administrators of Kansas

March 8, 2001

### **Mister Chairman and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:**

United School Administrators of Kansas is supportive of the amendment which would add the wording from **SB 21, School Transportation Relating to Buses**, to SB 115. SB 21 states that when a school district is transporting more than 10 students, those students must be transported in a school bus.

In addition, any motor vehicle owned by the school district, which is not a school bus, and is designed to transport more than 10 passengers, but less than 15 passengers, shall not be used after July 1, 2004.

This amendment brings the Kansas statutes into line with federal regulations. In checking with school administrators across the state, most are following the federal guidelines at the present time.

United School Administrators of Kansas appreciates your concern for the safety of Kansas school children and asks that you favorably include SB 21 in the reporting of SB 115.

House Transportation Committee  
March 8, 2001  
Attachment 2

(w:legis:SB115+21:2001)



Kansas Association of  
Elementary  
School Principals  
(KAESP)

Kansas Association of  
Middle School  
Administrators  
(KAMSA)

Kansas Association of  
School Administrators  
(KASA)

Kansas Association of  
School Business  
Officials  
(KASBO)

Kansas Association for  
Supervision and  
Curriculum Development  
(KASCD)

Kansas Association of  
Special Education  
Administrators  
(KASEA)

Kansas Association of  
Secondary School  
Principals  
(KASSP)

Kansas Council of  
Vocational  
Administrators  
(KCVA)

Kansas School  
Public Relations  
Association  
(KanSPRA)