

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION K-12.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ralph Tanner at 9:30 a.m. on February 11, 2002 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mark DeSetti, KNEA
Representative Lana Gordon
Bill Kennedy, Driver Education Instructor
Gary Scott, Exec. Dir.,
Ks Drivers Safety Ed Assoc. - KSDEA
Jim Hathaway, Driver Education Instructor
Amy Brunner, KASB

Mark DeSetti distributed copies of childrens' literature as well as booklets entitled "Why Read?".
(Attachment 1 - copies of which may be obtained through the KNEA.)

HB 2720 - relating to drivers' training; defining approved course in driver training.

Lana Gordon spoke as a proponent of **HB 2720**. (Attachment 2).

Appearing in support of **HB 2720** was Bill Kennedy. (Attachment 3).

Next to testify in favor of **HB 2720** was Gary Scott. (Attachment 4). He offered examples of driver education course standards in the various states.

Jim Hathaway spoke in support of **HB 2720**. (Attachment 5).

A question and answer session followed the appearances of these proponents.

Amy Brunner, Governmental Relations Specialist with the Kansas Association of School Boards, offered testimony in opposition of **HB 2720**. (Attachment 6).

Minutes of Committee meetings for January 15, 16, 22, 23, 24 and 29, 2002 were distributed to the Committee.

A motion was made by Representative Horst and seconded by Representative Wells that these minutes be approved. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2002.

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MEMBER: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
HIGHER EDUCATION
K-12 EDUCATION
NEW ECONOMY
CHAIR: SHAWNEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE
DELEGATION

February 11, 2002

Chairman Tanner and Members of the Education Committee, I am here in support of HB 2720. This bill provides for a return to previous requirements of 6 hours minimum, behind the wheel training, as well as 30 hours of classroom instruction in order to qualify as an approved course in driver training. The intent of this bill is to make the rules consistent for all schools that receive funding from the state school safety fund. Those that follow me in testifying will have a more detailed explanation with years of experience as driver educators.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Lana Gordon

House Education Committee

Date: 2/11/02

Attachment # 2

My concern for driver education in Kansas is three-fold:

First:

That all students attending a state certified driver education class receive a minimum of six (6) hours of behind-the-wheel driving instruction with a state certified driver education teacher. Since "outcomes based" education has been implemented in Kansas, instead of the usual six (6) hours of driving instruction previously required, many students only receive two (2) or three (3) hours of driving instruction from a professional instructor. The all-important teaching technique of repetition is lost in this situation. For any beginning teenage driver, performing a driving maneuver multiple times can aid in developing those important habits for safe driving (regardless of how proficient a teen may think they are at the driving task). Just because a beginning driver performs a maneuver several times successfully in order to satisfy the "outcomes based" model, this does not verify the thought that this driver will continue this maneuver safely on a regular basis. Only through repetition can habits be created. This process takes time. Legislation is required to help insure that a beginning driver in Kansas has the opportunity to develop into a safe driver under the direction of a professional state certified driving instructor.

Second:

The use of the internet for academic driver education classes should be rejected. The implementation of computers in the traditional classroom can be very helpful in most subject areas. The internet can be used for many classes in subjects such as math, social studies, English, science, etc. But, as important as it is to provide educational material to a new driver and that new driver receiving it, accountability and student verification is of the utmost concern. In a traditional classroom setting where a teacher and a student have visual contact with each other, this is accomplished. Thus, there is assurance that the intended student is receiving the academic material being presented. This guarantee is impossible to verify through the internet model. Since operating a vehicle can develop into a life or death situation, making sure that the designated student receives all the material presented through a traditional classroom environment is the reasonable and logical approach. Anything less would be in poor judgment. While the use of the internet can be very convenient and save money for a school district, accepting the responsibility for teaching a beginning driver how to drive safely and taking a chance that the student in front of the computer is not the one enrolled in class (thus not receiving all the material presented), may someday become a deadly issue for that student. This situation also may become a legal issue for everyone responsible in this student's driving education.

Third:

If public schools and non-public schools are to receive taxpayer dollars through the safety fund for each student passing a driver education course (2000-2001 = \$77.00 per student), they then need to be more accountable to the taxpayers providing the money and the legislature issuing it. For taxpayers to get their moneys' worth, an approved driver education program must contain the following in order to be funded:

1. A minimum of six (6) hours of behind-the-wheel driving instruction for each student with a certified driving instructor.
2. Attend a minimum of 30 hours of traditional classroom instruction with no internet use outside the traditional classroom setting.

Each school (public or non-public) should have the option to choose the program they want.

The requirement of 30 hours of classroom and 6 hours of driving was the original program (before "outcomes based education" was implemented) for each student attending a public school in order for that school to receive any taxpayer dollars. If a public or non-public school intends to provide a program with anything less than a 30 and 6 model being taught by a certified driver education instructor, that school should not receive any state funding.

House Education Committee

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Attachment # 3

I am Gary Scott a lifelong Kansan from Buffalo, Kansas. I have a B. S. and M.S. degree from the University of Kansas. I have taught for 28 years with one year in Australia, one in a parochial school, and 26 in the Shawnee Mission District. I have been a Driver Education teacher for 16 years in Shawnee Mission and have taught for a commercial school the last two years. I am the Executive Director for Kansas Drivers Safety Education Association (KDSEA). In addition, I serve on the board of the American Driver Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA). I support Bill #2720 because of the importance of human interaction in the driving task. To be a successful driver one must develop good social skills to interact with other drivers. Good people/ social skills can only be developed to fullest potential when interacting with other humans face to face. Also, the classroom environment provides the opportunity to develop visual skills monitored by teachers/ experts monitoring the progression or learning experience. Visual aids are also an essential asset to successful driving. There are numerous teaching strategies that are successful and meaningful if delivered in a social setting, such as a classroom. I do not believe I could be nearly as an effective teacher if I could not utilize guest speakers, videos, class projects, personal experiences, demonstrations, former student testimonials, and good student/teacher interaction. These are all nonexistent if you just have students complete, some multiple choices test on a computer screen. Where is the instruction in this method? Besides, the Kansas Department of Motor Vehicles does not allow testing for license via the Internet. Getting a driver license is the end result of taking and passing a Driver Education course. Therefore, I believe this bill keeps the teaching of Driver Education in line with the guidelines applied to other state agencies. Each generation has lost some of their people skills with the advancement of technology. In addition, with the lack of time we spend interacting with other humans then the phenomena know as "Road Rage" may increase as people have fewer resources and understanding of means to interact in appropriate and safe methods. Any opportunity that we are given to help people interact, I believe is beneficial in developing better /more positive social skills that help us drive on roads with other humans.

House Education Committee

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Attachment # 41

Driver Education Course Standards Instructional Hours

	Public		Commercial	
	Class	BTW	Class	BTW
Alabama	30	PB	30	PB
Alaska	varies by school district		8 (20 sim)	20
Arizona	30	6 rec.	0	0
Arkansas	0	0	0	0
California	30	6	30	6
Colorado	0	0	30	6
Connecticut	30	8	30	8
Delaware	30	7		
Florida	36-90	6	30	6
Georgia	30	6	30	6
Hawaii	30	6	0	0
Idaho	30	6	30	6
Illinois	30	6	6	6 (6 obs)
Indiana	30	6	30	6
Iowa	30	6	30	6
Kansas	PB	PB	8	6
Kentucky	4	0	5	0
Louisiana	30	6	30	6
Maine	30	10	30	10
Maryland	30	6	30	6
Massachusetts	30	6	30	6 (6 obs)
Michigan	24	6	24	6
Minnesota	30	6	30	6
Mississippi	30**	6		
Missouri	60	6		

**12 sim, 2 range PB - performance based
BTW (Behind the Wheel) obs - observation
rec - recommended

	Public		Commercial	
	Class	BTW	Class	BTW
Montana	42 (12 sim)	6	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	0
Nevada	30	6	No min. requirements	
New Hampshire	30	8	30	8 (6 obs)
New Jersey			5	
New Mexico	56	0	33	7 (9 obs)
New York	24	6 (18 obs)	0	0
North Carolina	30	6	30	6
North Dakota	30	6	0	6
Ohio	24	8	24	8
Oklahoma	30	6	# of hrs not specified	
Oregon	30	6	No min. requirements	
Pennsylvania	30	6	30	6
Rhode Island	33	0	not taught by comm. Instr.	
South Carolina	30	6	0	0
South Dakota	30	6		
Tennessee	30	6	0	0
Texas	32 (12 sim)	7	32	7
Utah	30	6	18	6
Vermont	30	6	30	6
Virginia	36	7	36	7 (7 obs)
Washington	30	4	30	4
West Virginia	50	6 (10 obs)	66	6
Wisconsin	30	6	30	6
Wyoming	30	6	no comm schools	

*For 16-17 year olds. All other new drivers, a 3-hour alcohol education course is required.

February 11, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Jim Hathaway, from the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, a Driver Education instructor and a teacher at Bonner Springs, USD #204. I am here to speak in support of House Bill #2720 as it will better define the intent of Driver Education in the state of Kansas. I feel it is extremely important that the Driver Education student has a personal one-on-one contact with the instructor. In view of the Kansas City area being one of the highest collision areas in the country, it is more important today than ever before that Driver Education be strengthened in every way possible for the safety of our youth. I also believe that with good instruction the serious responsibility of a driver's license is emphasized.

House Bill #2720 keeps the teaching of Driver Education in line with other states and illustrates to the DMV that a Department of Education approved course can deliver the type of driver that the state of Kansas should demand to keep the highways safe for its citizens. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my point of view, and I hope you support passage of House Bill #2720 as presented by Representative Lana Gordon.

Sincerely,


James C. Hathaway

House Education Committee

Date: 2/11/02

Attachment # 5

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

1420 SW Arrowhead Road • Topeka, Kansas 66604-4024
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Testimony on
HB 2720
Before the
House Committee on Education

By
Amy Brunner, Governmental Relations Specialist
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 11, 2002

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 2720. HB 2720 amends the statute regarding driver's training courses in the public school system by requiring that this course is taught in the classroom only, prohibiting the interactive teaching of driver's education through the use of communications technology. KASB is an opponent of this bill because it imposes an undue burden on school districts.

As you are aware, public education in Kansas faces a funding crisis due to the state of the budget. At a time when many legislators are calling for schools to be more efficient and innovative in response to these budget problems, a bill such as this blocks one avenue for flexibility. Requiring districts to find and pay an instructor for driver's education courses is an unnecessary requirement at a time when resources are limited.

For this reason, we ask this Committee not to recommend HB 2720.

Thank you for your consideration.

House Education Committee

Date: 2/11/02

Attachment # 6