

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary Hayzlett at 2:45 p.m. on February 13, 2002 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except

Representative Howell, excused
Representative Larkin, excused
Representative McKinney, excused
Representative Osborne, excused
Representative Phelps, excused
Representative Powell, excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Lisa Benlon
Representative Bob Bethell
Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy

Others attending:

See attached sheet

HB 2699 - prohibiting covering license plates with plastic materials

Chairman Hayzlett opened hearings on **HB 2699** and called on Representative Benlon who spoke in support of the bill. She said this bill clarifies the intended purpose of current law regarding license plate frames. The new language spells out that all numerals and letters on the tag must be visible. She concluded that with everyone's attention drifting toward safety measures to protect citizens from further attacks it seems necessary to take action to make sure the one item that may identify a vehicle and its owner is legible at all time. (Attachment 1)

Representative Bob Bethell also spoke in support of **HB 2699**. He told the committee that the purpose of license plates are to identify the vehicle as being legally owned and operated. They should also give the ability to quickly read the State of origin, the year of registration and the identification number. Therefore, it becomes a concern when the license plate is obscured. He asked the committee to favorably support **HB 2699**. (Attachment 2)

There were no opponents.

Following discussion by the committee Chairman Hayzlett closed hearings in **HB 2699**.

HB 2792 - repealing K.S.A. 68-163; approval of highway or bridge lighting plans by corporation commission

Chairman Hayzlett opened hearings on **HB 2792**. Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy, told the committee this bill repeals KSA 68-163, the state statute requiring utilities to file and receive approval from the Kansas Corporation Commission before implementing plans for lighting to be installed on any road, highway or bridge. He related it had been their experience that only one county in Kansas requires compliance with KSA 68-163 however, the law creates unnecessary paperwork and possible delays in street-lighting projects. He asked support for **HB 2792**. (Attachment 3)

There were no opponents.

Following questions from the committee Chairman Hayzlett closed hearings on **HB 2792**.

Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm. The next meeting of the House Transportation Committee will be Thursday, February 14, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 519-S.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 13, 2002

NAME	REPRESENTING
Karla Olsen	Westar Energy
Bob Bethell	
Robi Tennison	Westar
MARK SCAREIBER	WESTAR ENERGY
GARY DAVENPORT	KS MOTOR CARRIERS ASSN.
Maicia Stambough	KDOT
John C. Botterby	Westar
Lisa Benzel	

LISA L. BENLON

REPRESENTATIVE, 17TH DISTRICT

JOHNSON COUNTY

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIRMAN: HIGHER EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT

MEMBER: EDUCATION
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

Testimony on House Bill 2699
Before the House Transportation Committee
February 13, 2002

Chairman Hayzlett and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of HB2699.

I have noticed, in my district, vehicles that have the license plates covered with a clear or smoke-colored plastic cover. During days when the sun is bright or when the headlights of a following car hit the tag in a certain way, the plastic reflects the light and makes the tag illegible. This bill will outlaw such covers.

Also, some frames are infringing on the readability of the state name, registration year or 6 digit identification number on the tag. HB2699 clarifies the intended purpose of current law regarding license plate frames. The new language spells out that all numerals and letters on the tag must be visible.

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, everyone's attention has drifted toward safety measures to protect citizens from further attacks. It behooves us to take action to make sure the one item that may identify a vehicle and its owner is legible at all times.

I ask for your support of HB2699.

Mr. Chairman, I will entertain any questions the committee may have.

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TOPEKA

Testimony on House Bill 2699

Thank you Chairman Hayzlett and members of the House Transportation committee for allowing me time to present my support for HB 2699. I am Representative Bob Bethell of the 113th District.

My concern that has led to being a co-sponsor of this piece of legislation comes from the issue of why license plates are required. Some may think that the purpose of licensing a vehicle is only to allow the “government” the opportunity to receive more of a taxpayer’s income. That however is not the purpose. License plates are to identify the vehicle as being legally owned and operated. The license plate should also give the ability to quickly read the State of origin, the year of registration and the identification number.

Knowing that the purpose of the license plate is to give the ability to law enforcement and other citizens to discern the ownership of a vehicle it becomes a concern when the license plate is obscured. There are two ways that this bill addresses the obscuring of the plate. The first is by covering the plate with some type of plastic that may or may not be opaque; the second method of covering or obscuring the information on the plate is by covering the information with a frame of some sort.

Limiting the obscuring of the information on the license plate of any vehicle that uses the roads and highways of Kansas will be a benefit to the people of our state.

I appreciate the opportunity to be before you today and ask for your favorable support of HB 2699.

Chairman Hayzlett I will be happy to stand for questions.



**Testimony before the
House Transportation Committee
By
Mark Schreiber, Senior Manager, Governmental Affairs
Westar Energy
February 13, 2002**

Chairman Hayzlett and members of the committee, I am Mark Schreiber, senior manager, governmental affairs for Westar Energy.

Westar Energy supports House Bill 2792, which repeals KSA 68-163, the state statute requiring utilities to file and receive approval from the Kansas Corporation Commission before implementing plans for lighting to be installed on any road, highway or bridge.

It has been our experience that only one county in Kansas requires compliance with KSA 68-163. The law creates unnecessary paperwork and possible delays in street-lighting projects. Under current practice, approval is tied to compliance with the associated tariff and doesn't involve an actual review of the plans. All tariffs have been approved by the KCC, and compliance can be verified through periodic reviews.

Thank you for consideration of this measure. Westar Energy would like to see HB 2792 approved.