

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 P.M. on February 5, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Margaret Long- excused  
Representative Ronnie Metzker- excused  
Representative Tom Sloan- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research  
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Betty Boaz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Ed Trimmer  
Marcy Ralston, Dept. Of Revenue

Others attending:

See attached list

Chairman Hayzlett called the meeting to order. He asked if there were any requests for bill introductions. The Chairman acknowledged Duane Simpson, representing Kansas Grain and Feed Association and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association. Mr. Simpson requested a bill be introduced that would expand the Kansas Railroads Leasing Act to include track leases of class III railroads. A motion was made by Representative Burgess to accept this bill, seconded by Representative Treaster and the motion carried.

There were no other bill introductions. The Chairman opened the hearings.

**HB 2659 - Designating a portion of U.S. 400 highway as the atomic veterans' memorial highway**

The Chairman recognized Representative Ed Trimmer as the first proponent. (Attachment #1) According to Representative Trimmer, who was also speaking for Representative David Crum, there are approximately 23,000 veterans surviving out of 225,000 personnel who were in an above ground nuclear testing program that began in 1945 and ended in 1963. It was not until 1988 did the government acknowledge that these persons had been constantly exposed to Alfa, Beta, and Gamma radiation. These individuals were sworn to secrecy until 1996. Because of the classified nature of the tests, these individuals were not given any form of recognition for the dangers they encountered, nor could they seek any recognition. He concluded by saying that **HB 2659** would help recognize the sacrifices of our atomic veterans by naming Kansas Highway 400 from the US 77/54 intersection, east of Augusta, to the eastern boundary of Butler County be designated Atomic Veterans Highway.

There being no other proponents or opponents Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **HB 2659**.

**HB 2665 - Driver's licenses, destruction of surrendered licenses.**

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Marcy Ralston, Chief, Driver Control Bureau, Division of Vehicles. (Attachment #2) According to Ms. Ralston, **HB 2665** would allow the Driver Control Bureau to stop retaining seized or surrendered driver's licenses. Ms. Ralston said they receive about sixty driver's licenses daily but only return or destroy half that amount so the volume keeps increasing. She said they have determined that 50% to 60% of the licenses returned are to persons who are required to retest or whose license has expired and they must obtain a new license anyway. Ms. Ralston also addressed Chairman Hayzlett's question about which other states destroy the licenses.

The Chairman recognized Carmen Alldritt, Director, Motor Vehicle Div., who spoke in support of **HB 2665**. Director Alldritt said there are individuals who get stopped and don't have a driver's license with them for whatever reason, but when the officer looks their information up in his computer, that's where the real record

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Transportation Committee at 1:30 P.M. on February 5, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

is located. There were no questions of Director Alldritt and no opponents to this bill so the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2665**.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the Minutes of the January 28, 2008 and January 30, 2008 meetings. It was noted the time of the January 28 Minutes was incorrect. Representative Vickrey made a motion to approve the Minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative McLachlan and the motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Peck reported to the Committee that the Sub-committee was still studying **SB 294**.

There was a short discussion on the reasons for having a driver's license.

There being no further business before the Committee, Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 519-S.



# HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: Feb 5, 2008

NAME	REPRESENTING
Duane Simpson	KGFA
Terry Heidner	KDOT
Ed Trimmer	Atomic Veterans

State of Kansas  
House of Representatives

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Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation  
In support of House Bill 2659  
By Representative Ed Trimmer

In 1945 the United States began a program of above ground nuclear testing that continued until 1963. During that time approximately 225,000 American personnel from every branch of the service were test site participants and as a result, test subjects. Because of their sacrifice, scientists and policy makers have a substantially, greater knowledge of the effects of ionizing radiation.

Not until 1988 did our government acknowledge that these persons had been constantly exposed to Alfa, Beta, and Gamma radiation and begin to authorize treatment for related health effects. These individuals were sworn to secrecy until 1996. Had they spoken of the events in which they participated they could have received up to twenty-years in federal prison. Because of the classified nature of the tests, these individuals were not given any form of recognition for the dangers they encountered, nor could they seek any recognition.

Today most atomic veterans are no longer with us. Of the original 225,000 only about 23,000 survive. A significantly higher than average number of these individuals have had their lives cut short by or are living with the ravaging effects of numerous forms of radiation induced cancer. They have been fighting a war with an unseen enemy for years and many of them have already lost. George W. Bush in a nationwide statement noted that these individual's exposure to ionizing radiation was as grave as anything suffered by veterans wounded in combat.

Gary Thornton, who lives in proximity to Highway 400, has taken the lead in seeking recognition for these veterans. He was instrumental in last year's passage of HCR 5018, which requested that the Kansas delegation in Washington, the President, and the Department of Defense work to authorize a service medal in honor of the sacrifice made by atomic veterans. To this date the bill to authorize such a medal is waiting in committee. In regard to medals, as Kansans, we can do no more. We can, however, recognize the efforts of Mr. Thornton and the sacrifices of our atomic veterans by naming a highway in their honor.

For these reasons, Representative David Crum and I are asking that Kansas Highway 400 from the US 77/54 intersection, east of Augusta, to the eastern boundary of Butler County be designated Atomic Veterans Highway.

House Transportation  
Date: 2-5-08  
Attachment # 1

# KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Kathleen Sebelius, Governor  
Joan Wagon, Secretary

www.ksrevenue.org

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TO: Chairman Gary Hayzlett  
Members of the House Transportation Committee

FROM: Marcy Ralston  
Chief, Driver Control Bureau, Division of Vehicles

DATE: February 5, 2008

RE: House Bill 2665

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Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. My name is Marcy Ralston and I serve as the Chief of the Driver Control Bureau, Division of Vehicles, Department of Revenue.

I'm speaking in behalf of House Bill 2665 that would allow the Driver Control Bureau to stop retaining seized or surrendered driver's licenses. Currently, we have approximately 16,000 driver's licenses in our files. We receive about sixty driver's licenses daily but only return or destroy half that amount per day so the retention volume keeps increasing. We determine 50% to 60% of the driver's licenses we return are to persons who are required to retest, or whose license expired, and must obtain a new license anyway. Many do not wait to get their old license back in the mail before they go get a new one. Two office assistants spend most of their work day checking drivers' files to see if we even need to retain the license, plus filing, pulling, returning and destroying licenses. At a time when we look at what we are doing and why we are doing it, this seems to be a task that we could eliminate and better use our resources.

When we asked for introduction on this bill, Chairman Hayzlett asked what other states destroy the licenses, to which we did not have an exact answer. Interestingly enough, the State of Idaho currently has a survey out to other DMV's asking this same question. Out of twenty-one responses, 60% do not retain the seized or surrendered licenses. I've listed the results to date, obtained from the survey, which remains open until February 8, 2008:

DL's Destroyed: Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Quebec, South Carolina and Texas

DL's Retained: Alabama, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Our fiscal note also indicates an additional increase to the Photo Fee Fund from an estimation of persons who currently do not need to replace their license, but would if this bill is passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 2665 and I stand for any questions.

House Transportation  
Date: 2-5-08  
Attachment # 2

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