

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 P.M. on February 25, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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 Pat George  
Representative Lee Tafanelli  
Ken Stodgell, Legislative Chairman for VFW  
Carmen Alldritt, Director, Motor Vehicle Div.

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Hayzlett opened the meeting. He opened hearings on **HB 2709**.

**HB 2709 - Micro utility trucks, regulation of**

The first proponent was Representative Pat George. (Attachment #1) Representative George presented a substitute bill to clarify the operations of the micro-utility truck. The substitute bill clarifies that these trucks: 1) would not be allowed to operate on interstate, federal or state highways, except for the purpose of crossing the highways, 2) would be required to have a non-highway title, 3) have the same equipment requirements as the previous bill, 4) exclude micro-utility trucks from definition of work-site utility vehicles, and 5) would be sold by dealers. He asked for the Committee's support in favorably passing **HB 2709**.

Representative Joshua Svaty and Senator Dennis Wilson also came forward to offer support for **HB 2709** and urged the Committee to favorably pass it out.

After all questions were answered, the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2709**.

Chairman Hayzlett opened the hearings on **HB 2861**.

**HB 2861 - Purple heart medal recipient license plates**

The Chairman recognized Representative Lee Tafanelli (Attachment #2) According to Representative Tafanelli, currently if an individual is a recipient of the Purple Heart, they also apply for a distinctive Purple Heart license plate honoring their sacrifice. However, if the individual passes away, the license plate is retired and the individual's family may only retain the license plate for personal display at home, as it is no longer allowed to be displayed on the vehicle. He explained that this bill will allow the unmarried spouse and/or parents of a Purple Heart recipient who has received the award posthumously or died as a result of wounds received in battle, to retain or apply for the distinctive license plate.

The next proponent was Ken Stodgell, Legislative Chairman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. (Attachment #3) He said the VFW stands in support of **HB 2861** that in cases where the Purple Heart medal is awarded posthumously, or when the recipient succumbs to wounds sustained in battle before application for the Purple Heart license plates can be made, the recipient's unmarried surviving spouse and parents are given the opportunity to apply for and display the license plates.

Carmen Alldritt was the next proponent. (Attachment #4) Director Alldritt reminded the Committee that there were unique administrative challenges involved in changing existing law regarding Purple Heart plates. She

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Transportation Committee at 1:30 P.M. on February 25, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

suggested for their consideration, a Kansas Military Family license plate, which would be available to the parents, husbands and wives of military personnel. She said various decals could be added to honor the branch of service and any awards received by the active member of the family in service to our country.

Chairman Hayzlett directed the Committee's attention to written testimony submitted by Wayne Bollig, Director, Veteran Services, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. (Attachment #5) They were in support of **HB 2861**.

There were no other proponents and no opponents. Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **HB 2861**.

It was the Chairman's desire to work **HB 2358**. The Revisor explained the bill, that it was a carryover from last year. He explained the need for a substitute bill. The **Substitute for HB 2358** provides that for any motor vehicle subject to a lien, the county treasurer would be required to collect from the applicant a \$1.50 processing fee and mailing a copy of the title application to the lienholder. The Chairman called for discussion, motions or questions. Representative Vickrey made a motion to accept the **Substitute for HB 2358**, seconded by Representative Swanson and the motion carried. Representative Huntington made a motion to favorably pass **Substitute for HB 2358**, seconded by Representative McLachlan and the motion carried.

There was discussion on **HB 2756** - Traffic regulations, fines in road construction zones. Several suggestions were made. Discussions will continue next week.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on February 26, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 519-S.

**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE** 2-25-08

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
<del>KDOR</del> CAROL ALBERT	KDOR
MICHAEL MCLIN	KDOR
ROBERT BAKER	KHP
Callie Coco	Kearney & Associates Inc.

# HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE 2-25-08

NAME	REPRESENTING
Terry Heidner	KDOT
LARRY R BAER	CKM
KEN Stodcell	VFW
JEAN MILLER	CAPITOL STRATEGIES
Whitney Jamron	KS Automobile Dealers Assn.
Don Mitchell	KS Automobile Dealers Assn.

**PAT GEORGE**

REPRESENTATIVE 119TH DISTRICT  
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DODGE CITY, KANSAS 67801  
620-227-2012

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony before House Transportation Comte  
Febr 25, 2008

Chairman Hayzlett, thank you for allowing me to come before this esteemed group of scholars! First order of business is to call your attention to the substitute bill for HB 2709. After consulting with those much wiser than I, the substitute bill was crafted to help clarify the lawful operations of the Micro Utility Truck that we have allowed in KS since last year. The substitute bill does the following:

1. Micro Utility Trucks would not be allowed to operate on interstate, federal or state highways, except they would be allowed to cross federal or state highways. Not operate in a city, unless authorized by the city.
2. Would be required to have a non-highway title.
3. Have the same equipment requirements as the previous bill.
4. Exclude Micro Utility Trucks from definition of work site utility vehicles.
5. Would be sold by dealers.

It would also be my intent to ask our Leaders for consideration of an Interim Cmte to study other issues as to proper uses of the Micro Utility Trucks and other forms of transportation in KS.

Finally, I would beg forgiveness from staff and members of the cmte for making you meet today as I know you all have busy schedules. I would ask that you look past my shortsightedness and pass out substitute for HB2709 favorable.

Thank you,

**Pat George**  
**Kansas House of Representatives**  
**District 119**  
**3007 Westview Ave**  
**Dodge City, Kansas**

House Transportation  
Date: 2-25-08  
Attachment # 1

# STATE OF KANSAS

## House of Representatives

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THE CAPITOL

Lee Tafanelli

Representative, Forty Seventh District

February 25, 2008

VICE CHAIRMAN  
APPROPRIATIONS  
CHAIRMAN  
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET  
OTHER COMMITTEES  
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY & TECHNOLOGY  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2861

Chairman Hayzlett and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today in support of HB 2861. As a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I very well understand the sacrifices that the members of our armed forces make for this country. Tragically, many times the Purple Heart is awarded posthumously or awarded and the individual passes away sometime later as a result of wounds received in combat. The Purple Heart serves as a reminder of the personal sacrifice made in the name of freedom.

Currently if an individual is a recipient of the Purple Heart, they also apply for a distinctive Purple Heart license plate honoring their sacrifice. However, if the individual passes away, the license plate is retired and the individual's family may only retain the license plate for personal display at home, as it is no longer allowed to be displayed on the vehicle.

This bill will allow the unmarried spouse and/or parents of a Purple Heart recipient who has received the award posthumously or died as a result of wounds received in battle, to retain or apply for the distinctive license plate. With this legislation, their sacrifices for this country will serve as a constant reminder for all to see of those brave young men and women in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation and will honor their memory and the sacrifice of their family.

For the families of our fallen heroes, this is only a small token of our appreciation on behalf of a grateful state and nation of the personal sacrifice that they have made for our freedom. We must never forget our fallen heroes or the families they left behind.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today and I respectfully ask for your support of HB 2861.



House Transportation  
Date: 2-25-08  
Attachment # 2

**Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Testimony  
House Transportation Committee**

Chairman Hayzlett and members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent of HB-2861. My name is Ken Stodgell and I am the Legislative Chairman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

The VFW is proud to stand before you in support of HB-286. This is a bill that in cases where the Purple Heart medal is awarded posthumously, or when the recipient succumbs to wounds sustained in battle before application for the Purple Heart license plates can be made, the recipient's unmarried surviving spouse and parents are given the opportunity to apply for and display the license plates.

The original Purple Heart, designated as the Badge of Military Merit, was established by General George Washington – commander-in-chief of the Continental Army – by order from the Newburgh, New York headquarters on August 7 1782. The actual order includes the phrase, "Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the Purple Heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen."

This statement is as true today as it was in 1782. We continue to honor these brave and women who give their blood for the defense of freedom.

Too often a high price is been paid by the men and women of our armed forces who defend the rights and freedoms we hold dear. This bill gives the state of Kansas an opportunity to honor the veteran for their service and thank them for their sacrifices. It also gives us citizens the ability to recognize these individuals. This provides us an opportunity to thank and honor the spouses, children and parents of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. These family members lost a spouse, a parent, or a son or daughter they loved. We can never do enough to repay the sacrifice they had to endure, not by their choice, but because they chose to love and support a true patriot.

A medal ceremony is one of the most important events in this county. Especially one awarding a veteran the Purple Heart medal

This signifies true sacrifice. We do not take lightly the displaying of medals or the issuance of license plates that signify an individual as a veteran, but we believe this is an important honor for spouses and parents. Allowing them to display the license shows we will never forget the veteran's contributions and the sacrifices their families. We are proud to be able to play a role in recognizing the service and the sacrifice of these veterans, and strongly encourage rapid passage of HB-2861.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of HB-2861 I will now stand for questions.

House Transportation  
Date: 2-25-08  
Attachment # 3

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TO: Chairman Gary Hayzlett  
Members of the House Transportation Committee

FROM: Carmen Alldritt  
Director, Division of Vehicles, Department of Revenue

DATE: February 25, 2008

RE: House Bill 2861

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Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. My name is Carmen Alldritt and I serve as the Director, Division of Vehicles, Department of Revenue.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, you have the Department's fiscal note and response regarding HB2861. I would ask you to remember our conversation regarding the Gold Star Mothers license plate. Allowing parents and spouses, as well as changing existing law regarding Purple Heart plates present unique administrative challenges.

We're all proud and honored to have family and friends serving our country. If I might suggest for your consideration, a substitute plate. A Kansas Military Family license plate, which would be available to the parents, husbands and wives of our military personnel. Various decals could be added to honor the branch of service and any awards received by the active member of the family in service to our country.

I feel this substitute plate would allow the honor and traditions the current Purple Heart plate conveys to continue and honor those recipients.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 2861 and I stand for any questions.

House Transportation  
Date: 2-25-08  
Attachment # 4



**Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs**  
**Wayne Bollig, Director, Veteran Services**

House Transportation Committee

Gary K. Hayzlett - Chair

Virgil Peck - Vice-Chair

Terry L. McLachlan

Mark R. Treaste

Bill (William) M. Wolf

Pat George

Jeff King

Gene Rardin

Ronnie Metske

Terrie W. Huntington

Julie Menghini

Ron Worley

Margaret Long

Barbara W. Ballar

Mike Burgess

Tom Sloan

Joe D. Humerickhouse

Jene Vickrey

Jerry Henry

Vern Swanson

Vincent Wetta

**RE: HB-2861** - Concerning license plates for motor vehicles specifically those cases where the purple heart medal was awarded posthumously, or when the recipient is awarded the purple heart medal but succumbs to wounds sustained in battle. Allowing application for the distinctive license plates by the recipient's unmarried surviving spouse and parents.

Chairman Hayzlett and members of the Committee, I am Wayne Bollig, Director of the Veteran Services Program and Chair of the Veterans' Claims Assistance Advisory Board for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent of **HB-2861**.

The mission of Veteran Services is to provide advocacy and resources to the veterans of Kansas, their families, and/or their survivors, and to assist them in acquiring and utilizing the benefits to which they are entitled under law, resulting in a better standard of life for those veterans, dependents and survivors. Part of this mission I believe is to assist family members in the healing process. Purple Heart licenses honor our men and women who not only serve in our military but who were injured while serving their country --our heroes--here in the State of Kansas.

These are more than 'plates of pride' for a family member whose spouse, son or daughter in the end paid the ultimate sacrifice. For these family members the license plates can be an opportunity to memorialize their loved ones sacrifice. While we can never repay them for their loss, we can use this opportunity to say thank you to the family for their sacrifice. We can use this as an opportunity to honor them along with the loved one they lost.

The Order of the Purple Heart for military merit is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use. General George Washington established it on August 7, 1782, to honor the common soldier. The Purple Heart is bestowed upon only those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding valor, merit, and unusual gallantry. It is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of an Armed Force who, while serving is wounded or killed, or who subsequently dies from wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States.

House Transportation  
Date: 2-25-08  
Attachment # #5

When a Purple Heart is posthumous award to next of kin of a veteran, this family member knows their veteran paid the ultimate price for the costliest military decoration awarded. It is only fitting that in those cases where the purple heart medal was awarded posthumously, or when the recipient is awarded the purple heart medal but succumbs to wounds sustained in battle the recipient's unmarried surviving spouse and the parents of the recipient be allowed to make application for the distinctive license plates.

The Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Supports HB-2861 and asks for rapid passage of this Bill.