

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 P.M. on February 9, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Pat George- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office

Betty Boaz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Jo Ann Pottorff

David Shaeffer, Citizen

Carol Ann Dobbins, Citizen

Kim Harp, Citizen

Martha Bean, Manager, Driver Review, Kansas Dept. of Revenue

Representative Carl Krehbiel

Representative Tim Owens

Representative Dan Johnson

Charles Yunker, American Legion

Representative Bob Bethell

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Hayzlett called the meeting to order.

HB 2705 - Designating a part of Interstate 135 as the Vietnam War Vets Memorial Highway

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Representative Carl Krehbiel as the first proponent. (Attachment #1) According to Representative Krehbiel **HB 2705** recognizes the service and sacrifices made by veterans of the Vietnam War by designating that portion of #-135 in McPherson and Harvey Counties as the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Highway.

Representatives Tom Owens and Dan Johnson were also recognized by the Chairman. They both stood in support of this bill. No written testimony was submitted.

The next proponent was Charles Yunker, Adjutant, The American Legion Department of Kansas. (Attachment #2) Adjutant Yunker said the American Legion fully supports **HB 2705**.

Representative Lee Tapanelli submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2705**. (Attachment #3) He said as a legislator and a veteran he supported this bill to serve as a constant reminder for everyone who travels that section of highway of the proud service and sacrifice of those veterans from the Vietnam War.

There were no opponents. Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **HB 2705**.

HB 2707 - Drivers licenses, requirements for seizure disorder

Chairman Hayzlett opened the hearing on **HB 2707** and introduced Representative Jo Ann Pottorff. (Attachment #4) Representative Pottorff said she had a special interest in this bill because a friend of hers had been killed by a driver who had a history of seizures. In fact the driver had been involved in seven accidents prior to the one that killed her friend and his license had been suspended in the past due to his seizure activity.

The next proponent for **HB 2707** was David Schaefer whose mother had been killed when the driver of a vehicle crashed into the store where his mother was shopping. (Attachment 5) The officers at the scene wrote

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in the report that the driver possibly had had an epileptic seizure. This same driver had been involved in many accidents and each time he had a valid drivers license according to the police reports.

Carol Ann Dobbins was the next proponent for **HB 2707**. (Attachment #6) She said the purpose for the proposed changes in this bill are to further protect people with seizure disorders from harm as well as innocent drivers.

There were no other proponents so the Chairman called for any opponents.

Kimberly Harp came forward to testify in opposition to **HB 2707**. (Attachment #7) According to Mrs. Harp she has battled a seizure disorder for 13 years and believes that by increasing the waiting period from six months to 18 months will only cause patients to avoid their needed doctor appointments or lie to their physicians or neurologists for fear of reports and revocation. She said she also opposes the clause that requires a report from an examination no more than 30 days prior to submission because of the problems of getting in to see their doctors - she said there was a four to eight month waiting period to get into her neurologist.

There were no other opponents listed. After questions were answered the Chairman called for anyone neutral to this bill. Martha Bean, Manager of the Driver Review Section for the Division of Vehicles came forward to testify. (Attachment #8) According to Ms. Bean, because each case is unique and involves individual differences, the Division of Vehicles requests the revocation time remain at six months for the first seizure. Subsequent seizures may require extending the revocation period or possible permanent revocation of driving privileges. She said those determinations should be made by the driver's physician and their Medical Advisory Board, utilizing the guidance of Kansas statute.

After all the questions were answered the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2707**.

HB 2708 - Traffic regulations, auxiliary driving lamps, operation

Chairman Hayzlett opened the hearing on **HB 2708**. He recognized Representative Bob Bethell. According to Representative Bethell (Attachment # 9) **HB 2708** does not exclude the use of "vanity lights" it in fact limits their usage to the times that the high beam lights are illuminated. He said the purpose of higher power lights should be for better lighting of the roadways that are traveled.

There were no other proponents and no opponents so the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2708**.

It was the Chairman's desire to work **HB 2705** as there were no opponents. Representative Ruiz made a motion to favorably pass this bill and put it on the consent calendar. Representative Yonally seconded the motion and the motion carried.

It was also the Chairman's desire to work **HB 2708** as again there were no opponents, so he opened this bill up to the Committee for discussion, comments or motions. Representative Yonally made a motion to favorably pass this bill, it was seconded by Representative Ballard and the motion carried.

There being no further business before the Committee, Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be on February 13, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 519-S.