

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on February 23, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Les Donovan- excused
Senator Mike Petersen- excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy Shepard, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards
Linda Kenne, Superintendent, Victoria USD 432
Carmen Alldritt, Director of Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue
Llewellyn Crain, Executive Director, Kansas Arts Commission

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 538 - Extending school bus exemption to 25 years**. Bruce Kinzie, staff revisor, reviewed the bill. He noted that **HB 2486** is the exact same bill, which passed in the House of Representatives, and has been assigned to this Committee.

Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards, appeared as a proponent of **SB 538**, stating that school districts should have more ability to make decisions regarding the most effective use of resources in meeting the needs of their community (Attachment 1).

Linda Kenne, Superintendent, Victoria USD 432 testified in support of **SB 538**. She spoke of a school bus the district had to sell last year because it had turned 20 years old. It was in excellent condition, had 103,000 miles and had rarely seen an unpaved road. It only had one bidder and sold for \$550. This year the district is facing the same prospect. However, they cannot afford to buy another bus. School buses are designed to go far more than 100,000 miles and must be inspected each year. Some school districts must buy new buses because they are so heavily used, others do not. She continued that it is hard to understand why they have to junk a perfectly fine piece of equipment simply because of age (Attachment 2).

Written testimony in support of **SB 538** was submitted by:

Cheryl Semmel, Executive Director, Unified School of Administrators of Kansas (Attachment 3)
Joan Friend, Superintendent, Syracuse USD 494 (Attachment 4)
Ken Arhnold, Superintendent, Ellsworth/Kanopolis/Geneseo USD 327 (Attachment 5)

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 538** was closed.

Chairman Umbarger opened the hearing on **HB 2437 - Kansas arts license plates, requiring certain fees**. Bruce Kinzie, staff revisor, reviewed the bill.

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department, provided a full listing of all distinctive license plates, related fees and royalty payments, the major provisions of KSA 8-1, 141, for the special, distinctive, or organizational license plates as requested at the February 16, 2010 meeting (Attachment 6).

Carmen Alldritt, Director of Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue presented testimony in favor of **HB 2437** stating that she questioned the exemption last year. She concluded with the rules for distinctive or special license plates (Attachment 7).

Written testimony in support of **HB 2437** was submitted by:

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 a.m. on February 23, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Virgil Peck, Jr., Representative, State of Kansas (Attachment 8)

Llewellyn Crain, Executive Director, Kansas Arts Commission was called upon for comments related to **HB 2437**. She stated that in **HB 2134**, passed during the last legislative session, the Kansas Arts Commission was granted an exemption from the reservation fee, in which the first \$40 of each plate sold would go to the state. The current bill removes that exemption, meaning that the Commission would have to pay \$40 of the \$50 expected charge for the plate, having a negative impact of about \$20,000 in the first year of the plate's sales. The Arts Commission has sustained a 35% cut of state general funds in the past two years. She indicated that with passage of **HB 2437**, to her knowledge, the Arts Commission would be the only state agency with a license plate that will not be exempt from the fee. The Kansas Arts Commission has raised almost \$20,00 from private sources to have the plate made.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **HB 2437** was closed. The Chairman indicated he would take no action on the bill at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2010.