

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 P.M. on February 1, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Virgil Peck- excused

Committee staff present:

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research

Bruce Kinzie, Revisors Office

Betty Boaz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Pam Scott, KS Funeral Directors Ass'n.

Larry Baer, League of KS Municipalities

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Hayzlett opened the committee meeting by asking for bill introductions. Tom Whitaker, KS Motor Carriers Association asked to introduce a bill amending the interstate motor fuel use act. A motion was made by Representative Yonally to introduce this bill, it was seconded by Representative Faber and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Tom Whitaker for a second bill introduction. Mr. Whitaker said a technical amendment was needed that would continue to allow the Wichita Technical College to register their tractor-trailers under the school district rules that keeps them from having to pay the higher registration fees. A motion was made by Representative Ballard to introduce this bill, seconded by Representative Long, motion carried.

Representative Burgess made a motion to introduce a bill whereby persons who were recipients of the purple heart medal could have distinctive license plates for their motorcycles. The motion was seconded by Representative Menghini and the motion carried.

Representative Burgess made a motion to strike language in KSA 8-1597 concerning the height of handlebars on motorcycles. The motion was seconded by Representative George and the motion carried.

There being no additional bill introductions the Chairman opened hearings.

HB 2078 - Lead motor vehicle of funeral procession, lights.

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Pam Scott, Executive Director of the Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association. Ms. Scott explained **HB 2078**. She said it allows for the use of headlamps which alternately flash from high to low beam or simultaneously flash from high to low beam when used on a motor vehicle which is the lead motor vehicle of a funeral procession. (Attachment 1) Ms. Scott said the Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association supports the bill but would like language added to the bill to include "wig-wam" lights which generally are low beam alternating flashing headlamps. Bruce was going to work on the amendment to this bill.

The next proponent was Larry Baer, Assistant General Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. Mr. Baer said the League gives its qualified support to **HB 2078**. (Attachment 2) The League supports the use of alternating flashing headlights on the lead vehicle in a funeral procession to alert on-coming traffic as a sound safety practice. Their concern with **HB 2078** is that it is unclear as to what rights, if any, it gives a funeral procession to disregard traffic control devices. If the intent is to simply add additional safety factors to the procession then the League supports this bill.

There were no other proponents and no opponents.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Transportation Committee at 1:30 P.M. on February 1, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2078**.

Chairman Hayzlett then introduced Tom Whitaker, Executive Director of the Kansas Motor Carriers Association. Mr. Whitaker introduced Charlie Brown and read a Senate Resolution to the Committee commending Charlie Brown who had been named the 2004 National Truck Driver of the Year by the American Trucking Association.

Mr. Whitaker also introduced the 2004 Kansas Road Team which is made up of six truck drivers who have combined safe driving miles of 11.2 million miles and 128 years of driving experience. The Kansas Road Team members educate students in drivers education classes on the proper way to “share the road” with trucks. In addition they help train new recruits of the Kansas Highway Patrol. Members of the Kansas Road Team are: Darren Bogart, Chris Jones, Don Jordan, Rick Mason, Richard Melton and Jay Stoddard.

Mr. Whitaker gave the Committee a briefing of several topics, i.e. how trucks pay taxes, size and weights, restrictions on triple trailers, hours for truckers, inspections, etc.

There being no further business Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be at 1:30 on February 2, 2005 in Room 519-S.