

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 P.M. on February 15, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Barbara Ballard- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office

Betty Boaz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Marcy Ralston, Chief, Driver Control Bureau, Dept of Revenue

Greg Nickel, Kansas Association Court Management

Jim Keller, Deputy General Counsel, Dept of Revenue

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Hayzlett opened the hearing on **HB 2780**.

**HB 2780 - Traffic violations, court notifying the division electronically**

Chairman Hayzlett introduced the first proponent, Marcy Ralston, Chief, Driver Control Bureau, Dept. of Revenue. According to Ms. Ralston, for some time the Division of Motor Vehicles has actively encouraged the courts to seriously consider electronic submission. (Attachment #1) She said the main drive behind this bill is another bill introduced this session, SB 371, which concerns commercial driver's licenses and will bring Kansas into compliance with the federal Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act. By the year 2008, Kansas must be in compliance with notification of convictions for commercial licensed drivers or for offenses committed in a commercial motor vehicle, within ten days from conviction date.

There were no other proponents. The Chairman recognized Greg Nickel, Kansas Association of Court Management as the only opponent. According to Mr. Nickel (Attachment #2) **HB 2780** proposes that abstracts of traffic convictions and bond forfeitures "shall be forwarded in an electronic format approved by the division." Mr. Nickel said they had two concerns. 1) the unfettered authority to dictate allowed formats and 2) a reasonable time to implement electronic reporting.

There were no other opponents. Chairman Hayzlett drew the Committee's attention to the written testimony provided by Larry R. Baer, Assistant General Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. His testimony was more an expression of concern than an objection to this bill. (Attachment #3) He said of the 627 cities in Kansas 60% have a municipal court and many of those have non-lawyer judges. In the small municipal courts the judge may also perform the duties of the court clerk. Their concern is based on staffing problems and technological limitations.

After all questions were answered, Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **HB 2780**.

Chairman Hayzlett opened the hearing on **HB 2781**.

**HB 2781 - Administrative hearing for drivers license revocation by video/telephone**

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Jim Keller, Deputy General Counsel, Department of Revenue, as the first proponent for **HB 2781**. (Attachment #4) According to Mr. Keller, Administrative hearing officers employed by the Division of Vehicles hold approximately 10,000 administrative hearings each year. This bill is intended to expedite administrative hearings on driver's license suspensions and save time and money expended for travel by hearing officers employed by the Division of Vehicles, as well as witnesses, licensees and their attorneys.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Transportation Committee at 1:30 P.M. on February 15, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

There were no other proponents and no opponents. After all questions were answered, Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **HB 2781**.

Representative Ruiz commended Representative Long for an outstanding job as Chairperson in Chairman Hayzlett's absence.

There being no other business Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be on February 16, 2006, in Room 519-S at 1:30 p.m.