

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on January 28, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley- excused
Senator Vicki Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy Shepard, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Thomas Day, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Corporation Commission
Bob Bethell, Representative, State of Kansas
Janis Lee, Senator, State of Kansas
Sandy Jacquot, Director of Law/General Counsel, League of Kansas Municipalities

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

Thomas Day, on behalf of the Kansas Corporation Commission requested two proposals for legislation (Attachment 1). Senator Kultala moved, Senator Umbarger seconded, to introduce the bills. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 37 - Regulating traffic, concerning golf carts.**

Representative Bob Bethell testified in support, indicating many of his constituents would like to have the ability to legally drive “street legal” golf carts on the streets of their home towns. Regulation of these vehicles needs to be a local decision (Attachment 2).

Senator Lee appeared as a proponent, indicating the need to allow municipalities to implement local ordinances to regulate operation of properly equipped golf carts on streets and roads in their communities. In many of these towns, these vehicles are being driven anyway and law enforcement looks the other way. This bill would be utilized in small rural towns in Kansas; it would not be appropriate in larger cities (Attachment 3).

Sandy Jacquot, representing the League of Kansas Municipalities (LMK), appeared in favor of the bill and offered proposed amendments to provide cities the authority to choose the types of vehicles to allow on city streets. Expanding **SB 37** to create a new category of “alternative motor vehicles” including all-terrain vehicles, work-site utility vehicles, micro-utility trucks, and other alternative vehicles, clarifies all of the vehicles under one definition. LKM’s main goal is to broaden city authority to choose which vehicles to allow and have a law in which there is no question what vehicles may be driven on city streets (Attachment 4).

Chairman Umbarger expressed his desire to work the bill soon; he requested the revisor to review the language in LMK’s amendment and bring it back tomorrow for the committee to consider.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 37** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2009.