

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Petersen at 8:30 am on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – Excused

Senator Jeff King – Excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department

Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department

Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Carolyn Long, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Scott Wells, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Travis Couture-Lovelady

Joel Sheltroun, Elio Motors

Whitney Damron, Polaris Industries

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Chairperson Petersen asked for approval of the Minutes from February 19, February 20, February 23, and February 24, 2015. Moved by Senator Wolf, seconded by Senator Pettey to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Hearing on: HB2044 — License, registration and safety requirement for autocycle.

The Chairperson opened the Hearing on **HB 2044** and asked Adam Siebers, Assistant Revisor, for an explanation of the bill. Mr. Siebers said the bill would define "autocycle" as a motorcycle but would exempt the driver from requirements to straddle the seat or wear a helmet if 18 or older.

Representative Travis Couture-Lovelady, speaking in favor of the bill, said that these vehicles are not necessarily a motorcycle nor a car; therefore the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators recommends that a new classification be created in the states, the autocycle. A motorcycle has handlebars and requires the driver and other rider to sit astride or straddle while the autocycle has a steering wheel and the operator sits in a seat. Motorcycle driving tests are simply not suited for the autocycle ([Attachment 1](#)). Representative Couture-Lovelady noted that there is no helmet requirement for an autocycle and it would be registered and taxed the same as a motorcycle. This bill was amended in the house to remove the word "enclosed".

Mr. Joel Sheltroun, Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Elio Motors informed the Committee that Elio Motors is manufacturing a vehicle that is fully enclosed, two passenger with tandem seating, front wheel drive, three wheeled, gasoline powered with an anticipated 84 MPG highway and 49 MPG city

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and named the Elio. They expect the Elio to retail for \$6800 and currently have over 40,000 presold reservations. The Elio can attain a speed of 100+ mph.

Safety features include:

- high strength roll cage,
- front and side curtain airbags,
- 3 point safety restraints,
- stability and traction control, and
- ABS.

Included standard equipment are power locks and windows, air conditioning, and a radio. An automatic transmission will be available as an option ([Attachment 2](#)).

Whitney Damron, representing Polaris Industries, spoke in favor of the legislation. He noted that the Polaris Slingshot product, which is certified as a three-wheel motorcycle, would fall into the new autocycle definition ([Attachment 3](#)).

Senator Petersen drew the Committee's attention to a spread sheet compiled by Jill Shelley, Legislative Research, showing autocycle definitions by state ([Attachment 4](#)).

There being no further discussion, the Chairperson closed the Hearing on **HB 2044**.

Possible action on bills previously heard

Chairperson Petersen called for Final Action on **HB 2090, HB 2091 and HB 2094. Moved by Senator Fitzgerald, seconded by Senator Donovan to move the contents of HB 2091 and HB 2094 into HB 2090. Motion carried. Moved by Senator Schmidt, seconded by Senator Pettey to move Senate Substitute for HB 2090 out favorably for passage. Motion carried.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 11, 2015.

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