

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on March 9, 2004 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator David Adkins- absent
Senator Edward Pugh - absent

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisors of Statutes
Marian F. Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Assn.

Others attending:

See Attached List.

HB 2745: Fleet motor vehicles, permanent registration

Tom Whitaker, Executive Director, Kansas Motor Carriers Association, appeared in support of the bill, which will allow commercial motor vehicle fleets of 250 or more vehicles to register them electronically and receive permanent license plates. It is essentially the same provision enacted in 1998 for truck tractors and semitrailers. They seek the same relief for large fleets of 250 or more vehicles (Attachment 1). He advised that some big fleet owners do not sell any used vehicles, rather they crush them. In any other circumstance, the vehicle registration is electronically removed when the vehicle is no longer a part of the fleet.

No other conferees were present and the hearing was closed.

HB 2871: Motor carriers, traffic infractions

Mr. Whitaker also spoke in support of this bill which takes several truck and commercial vehicle traffic violations and turns them into traffic infractions rather than misdemeanors. It does not change the amount of the fine. It merely allows the violator to sign for the violation and pay the fine to the court. It eliminates the need for a personal court appearance on a specific date (Attachment 2). One judge in one judicial district has determined that appearance in court is required for violation of the laws listed on page 5 of the bill. This has created a problem, especially for the Turnpike.

No other conferees were present and the hearing was closed. Following brief discussion of both bills, Senator Goodwin moved to recommend HB 2745 and HB 2871 favorable for passage. Senator Schodorf seconded the motion. Motion carried

Members reviewed the scheduled hearings for the rest of this week and next week. Discussed lack of action on the van pool program and possible approaches to solving the problem.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2004.