

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 P.M. on February 14, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Ed O'Malley- excused
Representative Jim Yonally- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Boaz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Tom Whitaker, Executive Director, Kansas Motor Carriers Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

HB 2297 - Interstate motor fuel use act, exemptions

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Tom Whitaker as a proponent for **HB 2297**. According to Mr. Whitaker (Attachment 1) the Kansas Motor Carriers Association supports this bill which amends the interstate motor fuel tax act. He said current Kansas law allows a farm truck registered in another state to enter Kansas without purchasing a fuel permit or having an Interstate Motor Tax Agreement license. This privilege for out-of-state farm registered vehicles is not accorded to Kansas farm registered vehicles when they operate in the surrounding states. He said this legislation only effects motor vehicles: (1) having two or more axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross weight exceeding 26,000 pounds; or (2) having three or more axles regardless of weight; or (3) is used in combination, when the weight of such combinations exceeds 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight. The Motor Carriers Association provided copies of "Truckin' Through Kansas" to the Committee. This book explains the requirements for operating trucks in and through Kansas. Mr. Whitaker concluded by asking the Committees' support for **HB 2297**.

There were no other proponents and no opponents so Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **HB 2297**.

The Chairman called for final action on **HB 2297**. Representative Long made a motion to pass this bill favorably out of Committee, seconded by Representative Treaster and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett introduced Steven Bittel, Executive Director, KS Rural Development Council. Mr. Bittel had asked to give the Committee an overview on "The Future of Railway Freight in Kansas". According to Mr. Bittel Kansas ranks in the top ten states for miles of highway and miles of rail. He said currently Kansas has 4,465 miles of railroad track. Mr. Bittel provided the Committee members with a book printed by the Kansas Rural Development Council entitled "Kansas Crossroads: The Future of Rail Freight Movement in Rural Kansas." He stood for questions from the Committee members.

There being no further business Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be on February 17, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 519-S.