

Approved: January 28, 1993  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rex Crowell at 1:30 p.m. on January 26, 1993 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: All Present

Committee staff present: Tom Severn, Legislative Research Department  
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes  
Donna Luttjohann, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Rep. Gene Shore  
Betty McBride, Director of Vehicles, Department of Revenue

The first order of business was a hearing on HB 2084. Chairman Crowell began the hearing by recognizing Bruce Kinzie, Revisor, who reviewed the proposed HB 2084.

Rep. Shore, the author of HB 2084, was recognized by the Chairman. Rep. Shore testified that the state needs to have the county identification embossed onto the license plate. See Attachment 1 for his written testimony.

Betty McBride, Director of Vehicles, was recognized. She commented about concerns the Division of Vehicles had regarding HB 2084. See Attachment 2 for written testimony. Questions from the committee were answered.

Chairman Crowell closed the hearing on HB 2084.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for January 28, 1993 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2084

Representative Gene Shore

January 26, 1993

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

HB 2084 is an attempt to give Kansans a license plate to be proud of again. Not an aluminum billboard covered with stickers of all sizes and descriptions.

For years Kansans had the county designations embossed on their license plates. These gave a sense of pride, as well as a game to play as families traveled in Kansas or other states.

As a farmer, I am interested in the home base of a car driving the county roads. I want to know who is hunting on my land. As a mother in an urban setting, I would want to know whether a car driving the streets is local or foreign. As a law enforcement officer, a vehicle with tags from a long distance away may be reason for a quick check, where a county vehicle would have no reason for suspicion.

The current stickers can be readily covered with a sticker and SAM 123 is meaningless. I liken our SAM 123 tags to generic brand groceries. They serve the same purpose, but most of us still want name brands and will pay more for them. With Kansas being #1 in motor vehicle taxes, we should be #1 in quality, content and appearance of our tags. Our current tags are perceived as being ugly and sort of make do. When new tags are issued I want Kansas to have a more impressive license plate which has more information in a more acceptable form.

PS - I understand new tags are now being produced. These generic tags can be used on heavy trucks and trailers which are taxed differently than cars and pickups used as personal vehicles. No money would be lost by the state.

STATE OF KANSAS

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Department of Revenue  
*Division of Vehicles*

TO: The Honorable Rex Crowell, Chairman  
House Transportation Committee

FROM: Betty McBride, Director  
Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue

RE: House Bill 2084

DATE: January 25, 1993

Mr. Chairman, members of the Transportation committee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to express the Division of Vehicle's concern regarding House Bill 2084.

In 1984 House Bill 3096 provided for the license plate format currently known as SAM 123. Passage of House Bill 2084 would revert to the county designator plate format, but include the SAM 123 format. Prior to adopting the SAM 123 format, Kansas was the only state which used a county prefix and alpha character to identify county and month of expiration. If the SAM 123 plate which is currently being issued were abandoned, benefits and savings associated with this format would be lost.

Control of inventory,--Reduced inventory levels,-- drastically reduced number of combinations to manufacture, and a major carrying cost at the time of mass reissue due to the fact that those plates are unique to each county and each county would have to destroy the old series plates prior to the new issuance. 160,000 plates were destroyed in 1985. 80,000 of these plates were in one county alone. We anticipate only 10,000 plates will be destroyed state wide at the end of 1993. The ability to transfer plates from one county to another when supplies are unexpectedly exhausted would no longer be an alternative. These are just a few of the benefits that would be lost if SAM 123 is abandoned.

As you are aware the 1992 legislature appropriated funds for the issuance of a newly designed SAM 123 license plate which will be issued from County Treasurer's offices beginning January 1, 1994. Plates are manufactured by Center Industries of Wichita. 2.5 million plates are needed and will be manufactured for this reissue. The process for manufacturing new license plates takes approximately eighteen months to complete. Center Industries began

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manu...ring the new plates in August 1992. As of January 20th, approximately 275,000 have been manufactured at a cost to the State of nearly \$400,000.00. The process is continuing and 7,500 plates are being manufactured each day. If House Bill 2084 were passed all of these plates would have to be scrapped and new license plates would need to be manufactured at the same cost. If re-issuance of all 2.5 million plates were necessary \$3,625,000.00 would be needed. The State will have wasted the amount expended for these tags and spend an additional 3,625,000.00 to manufacture 2.5 million new plates. New funding would have to be allocated.

Center Industries would not be capable of manufacturing the number of license plates necessary for mass re-issuance on January 1, 1994.

In addition, the intent of this bill is unclear. It does not specify that the county designator must be embossed on the license plate, however it is assumed that the intent is to revert to the old county designator plate format prior to SAM 123.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee I again want to thank you for allowing me the time to share the concerns of the the Division of Vehicles with House Bill 2084.

I would be pleased to stand for questions at this time.