

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Les Donovan at 8:30 A.M. on January 17, 2008 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Peggy Palmer- excused
Greta Goodwin- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Mary Jane Brueck, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Others attending:

Sen. Donovan opened the meeting. He announced that today's meeting was not intended to take any action on anything, but to introduce the new members of the committee.

Introductions:

Terry Heidner – new KDOT Legislative Liaison
Tom Whitaker – KS Motor Carriers Assn
Kevin Graves – also with the KS Motor Carriers Assn
Michelle Peterson
Carmen Alldritt – Dir. of Vehicles for Ks Dept of Revenue
interested in V.I.P., KCC issue, uniform carrier registration
Kelly Horton – in Dir of Vehicles office – works with the Vehicle Inventory System
Whitney Damron
Mary Jane Brueck, Committee Assistant
Jill Shelley, Legislative Research
Mike Corrigan – Revisor of Statutes

Sen. Donovan shared information Jill had gathered regarding the reduction of traffic fatalities through use of seat belts. Over past years the average of fatalities from traffic accidents was 465 per year. In 2007, it was 404; down about 15%. In deaths from traffic accidents, 76% were not wearing seat belts. Seat belts were not being worn by 85% of teenagers who were killed in traffic accidents. Two years ago we passed legislation requiring 4 to 7-year-olds to be in booster seats and belted in. Last year we passed a bill requiring 15 to 17-year-olds to always be belted no matter what seat they are occupying in the vehicle. Seat belt usage has risen from 54% to 61% to 75% in 2007. Thank you to the Transportation Committee for the good work to make this possible.

The schedule for 2008 does not have much on it as of now. The committee will not meet if there is nothing to meet about.

Two programs were adopted in 1999 and are due to expire in 2009. Because of those bills, Kansas' highways have moved from being in the bottom half of states with good highways to now being among the first 3 or 4 in the nation. Kansas had the 4th largest number of highway miles in the nation.

Sen. Donovan asked for other business. Sen. Schmidt asked if there was any update of the graduated drivers' license laws. The House will be discussing them next week.

With no further questions, Sen. Donovan closed the meeting. There are no future meetings scheduled at this time.