

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Ben Vidricksen at 9:10 a.m. on March 15, 2000 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Marian F. Holeman, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Joe Krahn, Chief, Bureau of Right of Way, KDOT
Barbara Pringle, KS ST Pupil Transportation Assn.
Larry Pence, District VP for KSPTA

Others attending: See attached list

HB 2745: Re Highways; advertising control act

Staff provided members with information on the Federal and State Controls related to this issue (Attachment 1) Mr. Krahn explained this bill simply would bring Kansas into compliance with Federal Law and will allow the State to avoid loss of Federal funds for noncompliance (Attachment 2). Although this bill is needed because of changes in Federal Law, according to Mr. Krahn's testimony it will not essentially change current policy regarding highway advertising.

Following discussion of current policy, Senator Jordan moved to report HB 2745 favorable for passage. Senator Stephens seconded the motion. Motion carried. Senator Vidricksen will carry the bill.

HB 2582: An Act concerning school buses; head lamps

Barbara Pringle, Executive Secretary, Kansas State Pupil Transportation Association, narrated a video taken of a March 1 demonstration of the use of alternating flashing headlamps on a school bus (Attachment 3) and advised they continue to oppose the additional option to use alternating flashing lights on school buses as they are convinced of the possible negative effect on safety.

Larry Pence, Transportation Director USD 416, School Services & Leasing Inc. also spoke in opposition to this bill. He expressed his views based on his experience as an accident investigator, driving instructor and bus driver for the past fourteen years (Attachment 4). He further addressed the concern that this bill would put the school bus drive at a much higher risk and liability in a court of law and offered some suggestions for alternative approaches to this problem.

In discussing the bill, Representative Gatewood suggested perhaps members could consider a possible amendment to allow use only during daylight hours. The video clearly demonstrated it increased visibility during the daylight hours.

Chairman Vidricksen observed that since there was not enough time remaining in the hour to complete discussion, **HB 2582** would be continued to March 16th.

Approval of minutes

Senator Huelskamp moved to approve the minutes of March 14, 2000. Senator Jordan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2000.