

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on February 15, 2001 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:     Senator Goodwin  
  Senator Schodorf

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:     William E. (Charlie) Wasylk, Wichita  
  James Gwennap  
  Tom Whitaker, KS. Motor Carriers Assn.  
  Ken Gudenkauf, KDOT

Others attending:     See attached list.

**SB 155: Designating US 75 in Kansas “Combat Wounded Veterans Highway”**

Mr. William E. (Charlie) Wasylk, Commander, Chapter 558, Military Order of Purple Heart, Wichita, Kansas asked for passage of this bill in recognition of wounded combat veterans from all wars (Attachment 1) Kenneth Bradstreet, Kansas Department Adjutant of the Military Order of the Purple Heart provided written testimony which suggested the name should include “Purple Heart”(Attachment 2). Mr. Wasylk advised that interested military organizations have agreed to the “Purple Heart” name rather than “Combat Wounded.” No other conferees appeared and the **SB 155** hearing was closed.

**SB 72: Re motor vehicles; defining farm custom harvesters**

Sheila Walker, Director, Kansas Division of Motor Vehicles provided written testimony (Attachment 3).

James P. Gwennap of Smith County Kansas explained the issues which led to introduction of **SB 72**. Definition of farm custom harvester and “incidental” farm usage seem to be at the center of the problem (Attachment 4).

Tom Whitaker, Executive Director, Kansas Motor Carriers Association advised members his organization is strong in opposition to **SB 72**. They believe this bill would open the door for anything to be considered a farm custom operation (Attachment 5). He advised that the additions proposed in this bill would allow farm vehicles to operate almost without restrictions or safety controls on Kansas public highways. Ken Gudenkauf, Assistant Bureau Chief, Bureau of Traffic Engineering, Kansas Department of Transportation also appeared in opposition to the bill. Mr. Gudenkauf testified as to how these changes would be a disservice to Kansas taxpayers (Attachment 6). In response to members questions staff explained that “incidental” usage referred to one’s own farm operations, but did not include doing work for pay for other farmers. The Legislature in 1992 enacted a law providing for a special tag for custom harvesting operations which gives farmers special breaks. No other conferees were present and **SB 72** hearing was closed.

**Approval of minutes**

Senator Salmans moved to approved minutes of the February 8 and February 13, 2001 meeting. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**SB 155: Designating US 75 in Kansas “Combat Wounded Veterans Highway”**

The committee returned to discussion of **SB-155**. Senator Harrington moved to amend the bill to read “Military Order of Purple Heart” in lieu of “Combat Wounded Veterans.” Senator Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Discussed funding for installation of signs and removal of Blue Star memorial markers and what this

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE at 8:30 a.m. on February 13, 2001 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

would mean to the “Blue Star” sections of US 75 highway. It was clarified that the Blue Star markers would be removed only where intersection with US 75 occurs and the Medal of Honor Danny Peterson section would remain. Senator Harrington moved to recommend **SB 155** as amended favorable for passage. Senator Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2001