

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on March 6, 2002 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Harrington  
Senator Pugh

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Kathryn Kayser  
Cameron W. Strebrel  
Rep. David Huff  
Rep. Bob Bethell  
Rep. Lisa Benlon

Others attending: See attached list

### **HB 2656: Re license plates for survivors of Pearl Harbor**

Kathryn Kayser explained to the Committee she had approached Representative Stone when upon her father's death, her family discovered the Pearl Harbor Survivor license plates had to be returned to the Motor Vehicle Department to be destroyed (attachment 1). Her grandson, Cameron W. Stebral, also testified in support of this bill which would allow him to keep the license plate (attachment 2). Staff explained that this particular plate was inadvertently omitted from previously enacted legislation dealing with other military plates, so this is really just a technical cleanup measure. Since members felt this bill is noncontroversial in nature, Senator Larry Salmans moved HB 2656 be passed and placed on the consent calendar. Senator Schodorf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **HB 2675: Re motor vehicles; personalized license plates, number of**

Rep. Huff requested this bill in order to bring uniformity to the law which regulates display of license plates. Current law requires all plates to be displayed on the rear of vehicles, except the personalized plate which must be displayed on both front and rear of vehicles (attachment 3). Cynthia Fisk had originally brought the problem to Representative Huff's attention and had planned to testify today. However, she was unable to attend so Representative Huff presented her testimony (attachment 4). She has been stopped and fined for no other reason than not displaying her personalized tag on the front of her car. That fine would now be \$90.00.

Written testimony only Sheila Walker, Director, Division of Motor Vehicles, KDOR (attachment 5). No other conferees appeared and the hearing was closed on **HB 2675**.

### **HB 2699: Re prohibiting covering license plates**

Representative Bob Bethell testified in support of this bill which he sees as an additional tool to aid law enforcement. Obscured license plates, whether by some type of plastic covering or frame, hinder law enforcement's ability to identify a vehicle (attachment 6). He explained that several other states have similar laws. Representative Lisa Benlon joined Representative Bethell in sponsoring this bill. She explained that plastic covers often cause reflective problems that make the tag illegible (attachment 7).

Discussed impact of **HB 2699** on car dealers' use of "plastic bag tags" for demonstration drives. It was suggested that since this is a widely used, standard dealership practice, perhaps non full privilege (full use) dealer tags should be excluded from provisions in the bill. Current law already spells out details of cost, display & use of full privilege dealer tags. Senator Schodorf moved to

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adopt a conceptual amendment that this bill would not apply to regular dealer plates. Senator Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was an expressed concern regarding the bill's possible impact on tourism in the state, since this law would apply to all vehicles in the State of Kansas. Staff will see what information can be obtained regarding this matter and report back to the Committee.

### **Final action**

Following a brief discussion, Senator Salmans moved to recommend **HB 2675** favorable for passage. Senator Schodorf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Approval of minutes**

Senator Salmans moved to approve minutes of February 26, 2002 meeting. Senator Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2002.