

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on February 21, 2002 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, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Lowell Ramsey, Kansans for Life
Russ Amerling, Choose Life, Inc.
Senator John Vratil

Others attending: See attached list

SB 624: Re special license plate: "Choose Life"

Lowell D. Ramsey, J.D., Lobbyist for Kansans for Life, Inc., appeared in support of this bill request which is identical in nature to plates authorized for Children's Trust Fund and other "worthy causes." Income from the sale of these plates will be used to help 67 Centers around the state assist women in crisis pregnancy and to encourage adoptions (attachment 1). Mr. Ramsey introduced one of his own three adopted daughters. He also introduced Mr. Russ Amerling who has been involved in getting the "Choose Life" license plate into the hands of the public in Florida and several other states.

Russ Amerling introduced his wife, Jill. They serve as National Publicity Coordinators for Choose Life, Inc. They came all the way from Ocala, Florida in order to testify in support of this bill. It has been a great revenue producers for their programs. The Florida design has been referred to as their organization's "national tag" (attachment 2).

SB 518: Re special license plate; Autism Society, Johnson Co.

Senator Vratil appeared before the committee in support of this bill which also deals with a special license plate for a nonprofit organization, the Autism Society of Johnson County. Profit will be used to provide scholarships. Procedures for obtaining this plate would be the same as that for similar plates. Each organization works with Division of Motor Vehicles regarding the design and pays for the silk screen process. A minimum of 500 plates must be ordered before the issuance of such special plates. Senator Harrington moved to make necessary technical changes and amend SB 518 into SB 624. Senator Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was some discussion regarding the necessity to continue hearing bills related to these requests for special license plates. It was felt that legislative input is very necessary regarding the kind and quantity of different plates acceptable in the state. A sudden large demand for such specialty plates could have unacceptable fiscal impact on the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2002.