

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on March 9, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Les Donovan-excused

Committee staff present:

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Toni Beck, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

HB 2044

Representative Paul Davis

Karen Wittman, Assistant Attorney General, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor

Ryan Crum

Jill Kanost

Jeffrey Stolz, Written Testimony Only

Betty Lawrenz, Written Testimony Only

Charles Branson, District Attorney, Douglas County

Representative Sydney Carlin

Others attending:

See attached list.

Senator Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes for 3-2-11 as written. Senator Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HB 2169 - Designating the junction of United States highway 24 and K-7 highway as the Representative Margaret Long interchange

Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2169**. This is the same bill as **SB 58** presented by the Senate.

There being no testimony offered for the bill, Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2169**.

HB 2044 - Amending the requirements for action and notification upon motor vehicle accident

Chairman opened the testimony for **HB 2044**.

Daniel Yoza, Revisor, detailed the bill changes would be page 2, section 2, for a Level Five offense. Representative Paul Davis presented testimony in support of the bill. Changes he presented would allow prison time for offenders. (Attachment 1) Karen Wittman presented testimony in support of the bill stating hit and run is a clear option because they can not be prosecuted if they are not found. (Attachment 2) Ryan Crum presented testimony in support of the bill stating his father was killed by a hit and run driver in 2008. (Attachment 3) Jill Kanost testified in support of the bill, stating her son, Ryan, was killed by a hit and run driver in 2006. (Attachment 4) Jeffrey Stoltz provided written testimony in support of the bill, stating his sister-in-law was killed by a drunk driver while riding her bike. (Attachment 5) Betty Lawrenz provided written testimony in support of the bill, stating her sister was killed by a hit and run driver in 2006. (Attachment 6) Charles Branson, provided new testimony in support of the bill seeking a Level Five offense on a grid chart he presented. (Attachment 7) Severity level on the chart provides for Level 5 to require prison time. Severity Level Six allows for probation as opposed to prison time.

Senator Hensley commented on why this legal issue would be considered in committee. Senator Reitz commented on the length of time this has been an issue in the state with no reconciliation as of yet. Representative Carlin testified on behalf of the bill, with no written testimony presented. Charles Branson commented leaving the scene gives the driver time to sober up to protect their insurance, license and possible jail time. Later prosecution can not prove DUI responsibility of the driver for hit and run.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 9, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

There being no further testimony, Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2044** with action to follow.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.