

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on March 13, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Harrington

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mike Hoeme, Kansas Corporation Commission
Tom Whitaker, Exec. Dir., KMCA
Pat Hubbell, Kansas Railroads

Others attending: See attached list

HB 2160: Re motor carriers, fees

Mike Hoeme, Director of Transportation, Kansas Corporation Commission, testified in support of the bill. Current motor carrier application and registration fees have been in place since at least 1937. Since then obviously there have been significant changes in the industry and those fees are no longer adequate to provide required services. Attachment "A," included in Mr. Hoeme's testimony, details some of the cost changes. The proposed changes will also bring Kansas more in line with surrounding states. Mr. Hoeme also requested the committee amend HB 2244 as amended by the House Transportation Committee into **HB 2160**. The bill is an act relating to the state corporation commission; concerning motor carriers and railroads, amending several sections of K.S.A. At this time HB 2244 remains on General Orders in the House. Basically HB 2244 is simply a mechanism to allow KCC to be more efficient and effective in regulating motor carrier and railroad industries. The bill is lengthy and covers a number of areas, primarily technical in nature. The Supplemental Note on HB 2244, as amended by House Committee on Transportation, provides a summary of the principal changes. KCC also asked for two additional changes to the amended House Bill, one reflects the new location of the reference to gross vehicle weight rating. The second addition is to New Section 2 where the House amendment inadvertently dropped the phrase "to the extent not preempted by federal law." A balloon amendment to this effect is part of the attachment (Attachment 1). The House Transportation Committee Chairman has no problem with adding it onto **HB 2160**.

Tom Whitaker, Executive Director, Kansas Motor Carriers Association appeared in support of this bill, explaining the industry is no longer regulated by rates. They are regulated by all the different safety requirements. These requirements have had a definite positive effect on safety practices of motor carriers. Additional safety inspectors are needed to assure compliance. The industry further supports including the provisions of HB 2244. These technical and procedural changes should increase the KCC's effectiveness (Attachment 2). Pat Hubbell, Kansas Railroads, advised the railroad industry concurs with this legislation. No other conferees appeared on the bill. Hearing closed.

Chair called for recommendations on the bill. Members were not comfortable with amending HB 2244

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into **HB 2160**. They felt they needed more time to study the bill. No action taken.

HB 2220: Re commercial drivers' license act

Staff reviewed contents of this bill which the committee heard on March 12, 2003. The changes in the bill are designed to further improve safety of motor carrier operations. It is supported by Kansas Motor Carriers Association and Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles. Senator Schodorf moved to recommend the bill favorable for passage. Senator Gooch seconded the motion. Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2003.