

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Petersen at 8:30 am on Friday, March 18, 2022, in room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant  
Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department  
Sean Marshall, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

No list available

**Possible Action on Bills Previously Heard**

Chairperson Petersen called the meeting to order and opened discussion on **SB546**, a bill to authorize the use of autonomous vehicles on Kansas highways. Assistant Revisor Adam Siebers reviewed the salient sections and provisions of the bill.

Members discussed at length a balloon amendment submitted by a collaboration of the bill's principals ([Attachment 1](#)). The members discussed the possible interpretations of the "twelve continuous months" required with a safety driver before a driverless vehicle can be deployed (page 2, line 36).

A motion was made by Senator Petersen and seconded by Senator Wilborn to accept the amendment. The motion passed. Senator Pittman was recorded as voting no.

Commenting that the term continuous would require a vehicle to be working daily for a twelve month period, Senator Claeys offered an amendment. Senator Claeys made a motion seconded by Senator Dietrich to delete the word "continuous" and insert the word "consecutive" on page 2, line 36. The motion passed.

Commenting that the term "consecutive" could allow a company to operate a vehicle one hour a month, a possibility that would diminish the effectiveness of a one-year trial, Senator Hawk offered a conceptual amendment that would require a vehicle to operate at least 40 hours per month for 12 consecutive months. Seconded by Senator Pittman, the motion failed.

Expressing concern that the bill could allow driverless private automobiles to operate on public roads,

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Senator Hawk offered a conceptual amendment to require a weight of over 2000 pounds for any autonomous vehicle. Seconded by Senator Pittman, the motion failed.

The Chair noted a balloon amendment submitted to the Committee by another collaborative group ([Attachment 2](#)). Mr. Siebers reviewed adjustments recommended in the proposed amendment, especially highlighting the changes in the Advisory Committee. Members expressed concerns regarding representation by law enforcement and an expiration date for the Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Senator Petersen and seconded by Senator Claeys to accept the balloon amendment. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Senator Dietrich and seconded by Senator Claeys to add two members to the Advisory Committee: a member of the Kansas Troopers Association and a member of the Kansas Sheriff's Association. The motion passed.

Senator Kloos made a motion to include in the Advisory Committee a member of the motorcycle group ABATE. Seconded by Senator Claeys, the motion passed.

A motion was made by Senator Pittman to include in the Advisory Committee a member of the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association. The motion was seconded by Senator Hawk. The motion failed.

A motion was made by Senator Pittman to direct the President of the Senate to select a legislative member to chair the Advisory Committee on the odd year and the Speaker of the House to select a legislative member to chair the Advisory Committee on the even year. Seconded by Senator Claeys, the motion passed.

A motion was made by Senator Hawk for the Kansas Legislature to receive the report from the Advisory Committee and, based on the report, determine how best to go forward in permitting the deployment of autonomous vehicles. Seconded by Senator Pittman, the motion failed.

Senator Claeys moved, seconded by Senator Kloos, to consider **SB546** as amended to be favorable for passage. The motion passed. Senator Pittman was recorded as voting no.

The Chair invited members to consider **HB2633**, which provides a distinctive license plate for the City of Hutchinson.

Senator Tyson moved to amend the bill to display the county of registration on the license plate decal of all passenger cars and trucks. The motion was seconded by Senator Bowers. A member commented that since license plates are now produced on demand, such information could be included on the stamped plate. The motion passed. ([Attachment 3](#))

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Senator Claeys moved to consider **HB2633** as amended to be favorable for passage. Seconded by Senator Tyson, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m. No further meeting was scheduled.