

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 p.m. on March 16, 2004 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative John Ballou- excused
Representative Mary Compton- excused
Representative Stanley Dreher- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Boaz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Derek Schmidt
Dave Church, Chief, Bureau of Traffic Engineering
Kathy Damron, representing the University of Phoenix
Senator Robert Tyson

Others attending:

See Attached List.

SB 289 - Governors of Kansas hometown heritage act

The Chairman introduced Senator Derek Schmidt as the first proponent for **SB 289**. (Attachment 1) Senator Schmidt said that by promoting the history of our governors' hometowns, we can create a new focus on the history of their times and the forces that shaped them. According to Senator Schmidt **SB 289** would create the Governors of Kansas Hometown Heritage Act. The requirements would be that any community that is the hometown of one of our governors may request, by action of the community's governing body, that the Kansas Department of Transportation install Governor's Hometown signs at the highway entrances to town. He said the cost of this signage would be paid by private contributions with an additional amount paid up front to cover maintenance costs. The signs would be designed by the Department of Transportation.

The next proponent for **SB 289** was Dave Church, Chief of the Bureau of Traffic Engineering for the Kansas Department of Transportation. (Attachment 2) Mr. Church said this bill would allow KDOT to install governor's hometown signs on the State Highway System at all appropriate locations near the city limits of a city or the edges of an unincorporated community for those that qualify as a "governor's hometown." In addition, **SB 289** would allow KDOT to design and supply, or install, a territorial governor's sign for a city or unincorporated community which was a territorial capital of Kansas. He made a suggestion for a modification, that being to not place dates on the signs.

There were no other proponents and no opponents. Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **SB 289**.

SB 384 - Increasing maximum speed limit on certain highways

The Chairman introduced Senator Robert Tyson who was the first proponent for **SB 384**. (Attachment 3) Senator Tyson explained that **SB 384** raises the rural interstate speed limit from 70 mph to 75 mph. It also reduces the speeding cushion for a moving traffic violation for interstate highways from 10 mph to 5 mph. The result is that 80 mph is still the Kansas interstate speed at which a moving violation would occur and be reported to your insurance company - that does not change with this bill. According to Senator Tyson the passage of this bill will generate economic development all across Kansas.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE at 1:30 p.m. on March 16, 2004 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

The next proponent for **SB 384** was David Church, Chief of the Bureau of Traffic Engineering for the Kansas Department of Transportation. (Attachment 4) Mr. Church said **SB 384** would allow the Secretary of Transportation the authority to change the speed limits to a maximum of 75 mph on separated multilane highways. He said, in general, KDOT supports this bill. According to Mr. Church it may be appropriate to post some or all of our rural freeways at 75 mph. He said KDOT does not believe that raising the speed limit 5 mph would be detrimental to safety.

Senator Tyson and David Church stood for questions.

There were no additional proponents and no opponents. The hearing on **SB 384** was closed..

In the Chairman's absence Vice-Chairman Faber called for final action on **SB 289**.

The Chairman recognized Kathy Damron, representing The University of Phoenix. (Attachment 5) Ms. Damron offered an amendment that asked that appropriate highway signage such as is provided to other colleges and universities be put up for The University of Phoenix in both Wichita and Lenexa.

Representative Huff moved to accept the amendment to SB 289, seconded by Representative Beggs and the motion carried to amend SB 289. Representative Huff made a motion to favorably pass the bill, as amended, out of Committee. Representative Ballard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Faber called for final action on **SB 384**. **Representative Larkin made a substitute motion to amend to raise the buffer to 10 miles per hour, Representative Humerickhouse seconded the motion and the motion carried. Representative Humerickhouse made a motion to favorably pass SB 384, as amended, Representative Larkin seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

There being no further business the Vice-Chairman adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be on March 17, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 519-S.