

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on March 11, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Schodorf

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Tom Whitaker, Exec. Dir. , KMCA
Wendy Harms, KS Ready Mix Concrete Assn., et. al.

Others attending: See attached list

HB 2158: Re authorized emergency vehicles

Tom Whitaker, Executive Director, Kansas Motor Carriers Association explained that tow trucks are considered emergency vehicles by Kansas law. However, under current law they must also obtain permits from their home county and not all counties issue such permits. This bill will create a uniform procedure for issuance of emergency vehicle permits for tow truck operators. This will allow wreckers, tow trucks or car carriers to use emergency lighting when such vehicles are stationary and providing emergency service on highways. **HB 2158** is needed to provide protection to those who provide emergency services to the traveling public (Attachment 1). No other conferees appeared on this bill. Hearing closed.

HB 2159: Re local units of government registering leased vehicles

Mr. Whitaker requested this bill which would allow local units of government or school districts to register leased vehicles under provisions of K.S.A. 8-1,134. Current law allows for only owned vehicles. This will save money for these tax free entities (Attachment 2). No other conferees appeared on this bill. Hearing closed. Kansas Department of Revenue has no problem with **HB 2159**.

HB 2166: Re motor carriers weight bearing axles

This is another bill requested by Mr Whitaker. This statute is needed to clarify language in previous legislation and relates to weight bearing axles. It is now common practice to add air lift axles to trucks and trailers. When empty these axles are raised above road surfaces. Current statute indicates such axles must remain on the road surface at all times. **HB 2166** clarifies that only when the axle actually is in contact with the road surface must it be weight bearing (Attachment 3). Wendy Harms, Associate Director of Kansas Aggregate Producers' Association and the Kansas Ready Mixed Concrete Association also spoke in support of the bill. She provided additional information on weight bearing axles; explaining why a mandate that all axles be used at all times may, in fact, put both public and drivers in unneeded jeopardy (Attachment 4). No other conferees appeared on this bill. Hearing closed.

Chairman Donovan called for final action on the three bills. Staff Revisor advised that **HB 2158** required

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE at 8:30 a.m. on in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

a minor technical amendment; on line 15, (a) needs to be inserted. Senator Goodwin moved the necessary technical amendment. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. Motion carried. Senator Goodwin moved to recommend **HB 2158**, as amended; **HB 2159** and **HB 2166** favorable for passage. Senator Gooch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes

Senator Salmans moved to approve minutes of the February 18, 2003 meeting. Senator Lyon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2003