

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Jerry Henry- excused
Representative Jeff King- excused
Representative Gene Rardin - excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Betty Boaz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer
Representative Jim Morrison
Representative Lana Gordon
Representative Don Myers
Anita Wolgast, Chair, KS Arts Commission
Anne Evans, Advocacy Chair, KS Citizens for the Arts
Kathy Smith, Executive Director for Arts Commission
Carmen Alldritt, Director of Motor Vehicles, KS Dept. Of Revenue
John Brehmankamp, Citizen from Colby, KS
Judith Dietz, Chairwoman with KS Gold Star Family Committee

Others attending:

See attached list.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15p.m.

Chairman Hayzlett opened the meeting by introducing Joe Erskine, Deputy Secretary of Transportation for Finance and Administration. Mr.Erskine continued Secretary Miller's presentation of yesterday. (Attachment #1, 2-09-09). He started with Transit and the map of the State of Kansas.

At the conclusion of Mr. Erskine's presentation the Chairman thanked him for all the information he had provided and then opened hearings on **HB2134**.

HB 2134 - Distinctive license plates; exempting In God We Trust plates from startup fee.

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Senator Ralph Ostmeyer as the first proponent for this bill. (Attachment #1) According to Senator Ostmeyer when this bill was passed last year an amendment to waive the fees was forgotten. So the exemption which was supposed to have been in the law last year is now being proposed. He said the initial cost for the plates is approximately \$13,000 and the requesters of the legislation passed last year are not recipients of any of the funds and do not have the funds individually to initiate the plate printing process. He concluded by asking the Committee's support of this bill.

Chairman recognized John Bremenkamp as the next proponent. (Attachment #2) Mr. Bremenkamp said they thought all that was needed was the 500 names which when word got out they had over 2,000 names. He asked the Committee to support **HB 2134** and let the tags get out and sold.

The Chairman recognized Representative Jim Morrison as the next proponent to speak to this bill. (Attachment #3) Representative Morrison said this plate is expected to be the most popular personalized plate ever made in Kansas. He said over 2,000 people have already requested plates but cannot get them as they have not been printed. He said the State should realize a gross income of at least \$100,000 before the end

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Transportation Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

of this fiscal year, which far exceeds their costs.

There were no other proponents.

The only opponent to this bill was Carmen Alldritt, Director of Division of Vehicles. (Attachment #4) According to Director Alldritt the Department of Revenue does not oppose any specialty plate but they are opposed to the lack of funding. She said the current law is inadequate and does not begin to cover the cost of these plates. Director Alldritt said the legislature needs to take a hard look at how these plates are financed and put a firm policy in place. She concluded by saying the DMV recommends that instead of considering specialty plate legislation on an individual basis, a policy be established in statute so that any group wishing a specialty plate can cover development costs through either a lump sum payment or advance orders made by deposit of the \$40 specialty plate fee in the distinctive license plate fund until development costs are covered.

There were no other opponents so after all questions were answered Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearings on **HB 2134**.

The Chairman opened hearings on **HB 2130**.

HB 2130 - Support Kansas arts license plate.

The Chairman recognized Representative Lana Gordon as the first proponent for this bill. (Attachment #5) According to Representative Gordon **HB 2130** would help raise much needed funds to support the arts programs.

The next proponent was Anita Wolgast, Chair, Kansas Arts Commission. (Attachment #6) She said a number of other states currently have arts license plates with six of them reporting fiscal year revenue ranging from \$50,000 in New Hampshire to \$3,172,000 in California. Ms. Wolgast said any income is deeply important to the artists and arts organizations of Kansas.

Ann Evans, Advocacy Chair, Kansas Citizens for the Arts, was the next proponent. (Attachment #7) she said as a citizen of Kansas and the former director of the Lawrence Arts Center, she is in full support of **HB 2130**. She said the additional support for the arts will provide more funds to educate children and to reach senior citizens.

The Chairman recognized Kathy Smith, Executive Director, ARTSConnect, Topeka. (Attachment #8) She said this was an organization created by the Topeka Community Foundation in 2006 to help support and advocate for the arts in the Topeka and Shawnee County area. She said for every dollar invested in the nonprofit arts nationally, at least seven dollars are generated which means for this investment of private funds, at least seven times that much will be generated. She concluded that this was in addition to the visibility the license plate will create for the arts in Kansas.

There were no other proponents.

The only opponent was Carment Alldritt, Director of Motor Vehicle with the same concerns for this distinctive plate as the other distinctive plates. The Department of Revenue is not opposed to the plates, only to the lack of funding.

There were no other opponents so the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2130** and opened hearings on **HB 2138**.

HB 2138 - Providing for the Kansas military family license plate.

The first proponent was Representative Don Myers. (Attachment #9) He said the request was made on behalf of the Gold Star Family Committee of Kansas, Judith Dietz, Chairwoman, who represents the many families who have lost family members in times of war. The request is that a specialized license plate be issued to all families to honor their lost loved ones. He asked the Committee to support **HB 2138**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Transportation Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

The Chairman recognized Judith Dietz, Chairwoman of the Kansas Gold Star Family Committee. (Attachment #10) She provided the Committee with the background of her request. Her father was killed in Vietnam in 1968. Ms. Dietz showed the Committee a Gold Star Family license plate from the State of Ohio. She was very opposed to the idea of a decal, she thought it was insensitive, insulting and disrespectful. Ms. Dietz said she had been working with Mr. Stabbs, Commander of the American Legion, in Mulvane, KS. She concluded by saying the Gold Star Family Committee of Kansas and the Veterans of Kansas strongly oppose the decal portion of **HB 2138**. They want to have a “stand alone” bill introduced to authorize Gold Star Family license plates.

There were no other proponents or opponents to **HB 2138** except Carmen Alldritt, Director of Motor Vehicles, based on lack of funding. Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **HB 2138**.

It was the Chairman’s desire to work **HB 2131** so he opened it up for questions, discussions and motions. Representative Menghini made a motion to favorably pass **HB 2131**, seconded by Representative Swanson and the motion carried.

The Chairman opened **HB 2135** for questions, discussion and motions. Representative Burgess made a motion to favorably pass **HB 2135**, seconded by Representative Menghini. Questions and discussion followed. Several members expressed concern with this bill. The motion failed.

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.