

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:35 a.m. on January 26, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

### Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Cindy Shepard, Committee Assistant

### Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Lindsay Douglas, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Department of Transportation  
Dick Kelsey, Senator, State of Kansas  
Judith Dietz, Chairwoman, Kansas Goldstar Family Committee  
Antoinette V. Ortiz-Colon, Co-Chairwoman, Kansas Goldstar Family Committee  
Carmen Alldritt, Director of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue

### Others attending:

See attached list.

### Bill Introductions

Lindsay Douglas, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), requested the introduction of a bill that would clarify liability and allow KDOT to be reimbursed for direct and consequential damages to a highway or bridge structure. Senator Kultala moved, Senator Huntington seconded, to introduce the bill. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 361 - Gold star family license plates.**

Dick Kelsey, Senator, State of Kansas, appeared as a proponent of **SB 361**. He stated that this is a family plate not restricted to just mothers, and the money required to develop this plate would come from donor funds, not state funds (Attachment 1).

Judith Dietz, Chairwoman of the Kansas Goldstar Family Committee, testified in favor of the bill. She indicated that the family members of those who died in service to our country deserve to be remembered. The Gold Star Family license plates would remind those that see them, there are human costs to war and freedom is not free. Passage of **SB 361** would be a way to honor them (Attachment 2).

Antoinette V. Ortiz-Colon, Co-Chairwoman, Kansas Goldstar Family Committee presented testimony in support of **SB 361**. The Gold Star Family license tag would enable us to display our heritage and honor the family member killed in action (Attachment 3).

Written testimony in support of **SB 361** was submitted by:

Jackline B. Wilson, TSgt (ret), USAF (Attachment 4)  
Ron Zink, President, Kansas State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America (Attachment 5)  
Kent Hillhouse, Major General (ret), U.S. Army (Attachment 6)

Carmen Alldritt, Director of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue, spoke in opposition to **SB 361**. She stated the department is currently overhauling its computer system and does not have the ability to accommodate new plate designs at this time. She requests that this bill be delayed until the new software system is up and running. The anticipated completion of the vehicle portion is July 5, 2011.

Written testimony in opposition of **SB 361** was submitted by:

Diana Pitts, Gold Star Mother (Attachment 7)

Chairman Umbarger had requested information from legislative research regarding fees that apply to

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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specialized license plates, to be discussed at this hearing. Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department provided a table that lists each of the authorized distinctive license plates and includes additional information about fees and when the plate was first authorized (Attachment 8).

Discussion followed over concerns on regulations for criteria of a gold star family plate, eligibility, and the current bill's interpretation by the Division of Vehicles would mean 14 different plates for each theater of war. It was suggested that decals be developed to cover the different theaters.

The Chairman requested that the Division of Vehicles return to give an overview of military plates and the license plate process.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 361** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2010.