

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on February 8, 2001 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Pugh

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dennis Schoenbeck, YMCA

Others attending: See attached list.

SB 115: Re school buses; modification of used buses

Dennis Schoenebeck, General Executive, Wichita YMCA spoke in support of the bill (Attachment 1). Tim Wilkie who works with the program on a daily basis was also present. Basically, all they seek is to not have to repaint used school buses when purchased for transportation of children in their programs, including their latch key program.. As written, the bill would apply only to church buses or day care programs. It was explained that the day care program bus definition in K.S.A. 8-1730(a) needs to be redefined so that any child care provider, licensed by Kansas, who provides transportation for children six through 18 years of age would be included. This bill is not a mandate. It merely provides an option for programs concerned. Senator Schodorf moved to amend the bill and pass favorably as amended. Senator Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SB 21: Re school transportation; school bus definition

Staff recapped information regarding federal law and definition of school buses. In 1997 Kansas law changed the definition to allow use of large capacity vans to transport students. This is not in compliance with Federal Law because these large vans do not meet roll over and other safety protection standards. These extended vans were originally cargo vans - not people vans. They still do not pass the same standards as smaller ten passenger vans.

In discussing **SB 21** members were reminded this bill covers the same student transportation (public and private - K through 12), as under current law. The State of Kansas has always taken the position that the State Board of Education has control over all education matters. The issue is "small school buses" or those that will carry 15 to 20 passengers only. Cost would certainly vary, but probably would be around \$2,500 to \$3,000 more than the extended vans. They would, as a rule, cost less than the smaller ten passenger vans. Parents do not give permission for transportation of their children in any specific kind of vehicle when they authorize participation in school activities. Parents are not specifically notified regarding kinds of transportation used by schools. Some committee members were not convinced of the need to mandate non-use of the large vans.

Senator Salmans moved to recommend SB 21 be not passed. Senator Jackson seconded the motion.

Discussed the motion to not pass the bill. Motion failed on a tie vote. Returned to discussion of the bill.

It was suggested that perhaps the bill could be amended to not allow public schools to use extended vans.

Private schools would continue to be allowed to use extended vans. A draft amendment to remove non-public schools from the bill will be brought back to the committee for further consideration.

Approval of minutes

Senator Goodwin moved to approve minutes of the February 7 meeting. Senator Salmans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2001.