

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on March 12, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Ed Pugh

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Lana Oleen  
Jason Butler, Junction City, KS Youth Commission  
Representative Barbara Craft  
Bob Storey, Junction City Police Chief  
Sheila Walker, Dir., Division of Vehicles, KDOR  
Tom Whitaker, Exec. Dir., KMCA  
Mike Crow, Chief, Bureau Traffic Engineering KDOT

Others attending: See attached list

**HB 2221: Re motor vehicles; neon ground effect lighting**

Senator Oleen offered testimony in support of this bill which would allow vehicles to be equipped with neon ground effect lighting. The neon tubing cannot be visible nor can it be in any shade of red. The bill is necessary to clarify inconsistent interpretation of present law ([Attachment 1](#)). Jason Butler, Chairperson, Junction City Youth Commission explained how his group worked with local law enforcement and received their support in trying to solve the problem. They contacted the Kansas Peace Officers Association, Kansas Chiefs of Police Association, Kansas Sheriff's Association and the Highway Patrol and received no negative input ([Attachment 2](#)). They do not have a problem with the House amendment that says lighting shall not flash. Last year when a similar bill passed the Senate, law enforcement, almost across the board, just want the bill clarified - either it is legal or it isn't.

Representative Craft did not have written testimony. She praised the collaborative effort between Police Chief Storey and the Junction City Youth Commission. Representative Craft also informed members that Jason Butler is the grandson of former Representative Jerry Geringer who also attended the meeting. Jason missed the House Committee meeting because he was in the state wrestling tournament. He is now state champion in his weight category. Junction City Police Chief, Robert Storey also testified in support of this bill. It has been a time consuming problem trying to explain to the public why there are so many different interpretations of what can and cannot be used for lighting. He felt the youth commission has done an excellent job in trying to look at the issue and address it from a law enforcement perspective. He has heard nothing against the bill and would urge passage of **HB 2221**. No written testimony. No other conferees appeared on the bill. Hearing closed.

**HB 2220: Re uniform commercial drivers' license act**

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE at 8:30 a.m. on March 12, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

Sheila Walker, Director of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue, testified in support of this bill explaining that it is necessary to bring Kansas into compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's "Final Rule on Commercial Driver's License Standards, Requirements and Penalties and the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program Improvements, etc., etc School Bus Drivers can be grand fathered in for the new endorsement before September 30, 2005. Additional CDL changes include disqualifications for new major and serious offenses in a non-CMV; precludes diversion agreements and adds to the list of serious traffic violations (Attachment 3). Six new offenses at a railroad-highway grade crossing were effective October 2002. Therefore, Ms. Walker urged passage of this bill and that it become effective upon publication in the Kansas Register.

Tom Whitaker, Executive Director, Kansas Motor Carriers Association, stated his organization strongly supports all laws designed to increase commercial motor vehicle safety. The changes in this bill are designed to further improve safety of motor carrier operations. The KMCA respectfully requests passage of the bill (Attachment 4). Mike Crow, Chief of the Bureau of traffic Engineering for the Kansas Department of Transportation voiced their support for the bill since they cannot afford to lose any more sources of funding. Lack of compliance would mean loss of \$16 - \$18 million the first year and \$31 - \$33 million the second and subsequent years (Attachment 5). They have worked with Ms. Walker and view this bill as essentially a "clean-up" bill. It is also important for our state to uniformly comply with traffic laws throughout the United States. No other conferees appeared on the bill. Hearing closed.

### **Final action**

Following discussion, Senator Goodwin moved to recommend HB 2221 favorable for passage. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Approval of minutes**

Senator Salmans moved to approve minutes of the March 11, 2003 meeting. Senator Schodorf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2003.