

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Les Donovan at 8:30 A.M. on February 9, 2006 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisors of Statutes
Maggie Breen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Carmen Alldritt, Director of Motor Vehicles
Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association
Tom Lehman, Kansas Fire Service Alliance

Others attending:

See attached list.

Senator Donovan opened the hearing on **HB 2628 - Registration of motor vehicles, issuance of license plates.**

Carmen Alldritt, Director of Motor Vehicles, said **HB 2628** amends K.S.A.8-132, allowing for replacement of standard Kansas license plates over three years, as opposed to one year. They would utilize all old style plates in stock, eliminating much of the plate replacement cost by taking advantage of the fact that nearly 450,000 persons purchase a new plate each year. Within three years, approximately 54% of registered vehicles will have been issued new tags. It would save the state approximately \$4.5 million dollars. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Donovan close the hearing on **HB 2628** and opened the discussion on **SB374 - Registration of vehicles, self-propelled cranes.**

Bruce Kinzie said the committee wants a penalty provision for transporting. His understanding is that the person would be sited under *First* of K.S.A. 8-142 for not being registered, not necessarily sited for transporting. They will just be told that they don't meet the definition of a self-propelled crane. So if the whole idea is to make the penalty apply to those illegally transporting material on a self propelled crane, he thinks that will have to be spelled out specifically by saying it's going to be unlawful to transport material. Otherwise, its simply going to be a penalty for a misdemeanor; a fine up to \$2,500 for not being properly registered.

Chairman Donovan said they want to give them the self-propelled exemption. They do not have to be registered but they cannot carry anything on it.

Lt. John Eickhorn said Bruce is correct, they would usually be cited for failure to register. Unfortunately, while the penalties can go to \$2,500, their experience here in Shawnee County has been fines as low as \$5 for cars not properly registered. The courts might not understand that the committee is trying to allow the self-propelled crane operators to do what they want, yet at the same time not let anyone take advantage of the situation.

Bruce said that if the committee wants to set a minimum fine, the set amount can be spelled out for self-propelled cranes that are not properly registered.

Chairman Donovan said the consensus of the committee was that the minimum fine should be \$500 if the self-propelled crane, which is being exempt from registration, was used for transporting anything.

Senator Petersen questioned whether the different types of rigging equipment for the various types of loads the cranes dealt with would be included in "except the property that is required for safe and stable operation of the crane."

Lt. Eickhorn said they're a part of the crane.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 A.M. on February 9, 2006 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Donovan said that's the intent. Just don't put anything else on the crane.

Senator Schmidt made a motion to amend **SB 374** as discussed by Mr. Kinzie and to change the word "constructed" to "used." Senator Wilson seconded the motion.

Senator Wilson made a motion to move **SB 374** out favorably as amended. Senator Palmer seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Donovan will carry the bill.

Chairman Donovan opened the hearing on **HB 2629** - Regulating traffic, size limitations of certain vehicles.

Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association (KMAC), said a drive-away saddlemount is a vehicle combination designed and specifically used to tow trucks or truck tractors, each connected by a saddle or fifth-wheel to the truck or truck tractor in front of it. Current law limiting such vehicles to 75 feet is no longer enforceable, as Federal law prohibits states from enforcing a length limit of less than 97 feet on these vehicles. **HB 2629** is a cooperative effort of KMAC, the Kansas Department of Transportation, and the Kansas Highway Patrol. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Donovan closed the hearing on **HB 2629** and opened the hearing on **HB 2630** - Regulating traffic, weight limitations, exemptions.

Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association (KMAC), said that **HB 2630** was also a cooperative effort between the same groups. The bill clarifies that truck tractor dump-semitrailers or dump truck and dump trailer combination vehicles are exempt from the federal "bridge formula" when operating such vehicles on the interstate system. K.S.A. 8-1909 (3) exempts these vehicles from the bridge formula when used for transporting various materials for transportation to a construction site, highway maintenance or construction project or other storage facility. **HB 2630** allows for the exemption on the interstate system. The Federal Highway Administration has verified that the Kansas law allowing the exemption was indeed "grandfathered" and it does not jeopardize federal highway funds. (Attachment 3)

Lt. John Eickhorn, Kansas Highway Patrol said they had no problem with the bill.

Chairman Donovan closed the hearing on **HB 2630** and opened the hearing on **HB 2631** - Motor vehicles, registration, firefighters license plates, low-speed vehicles.

Carmen Alldritt, Director of Motor Vehicles, stated the firefighters plates became available on October 11, 2005 and there are 2,000 on the road today. It had been the largest special issue they have ever had. Now they simply want to add the word "motorcycle" so they can issue firefighter plates for motorcycles. (No handout)

Tom Lehman, Kansas Fire Service Alliance, testified on behalf of the Alliance in favor of the bill. Firefighters are proud of their profession and this is just one more way for them to display their pride. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Donovan ask the committees pleasure on the four House bills.

Senator Wilson made a motion to pass out **HB 2628** favorably. Senator Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Schmidt will carry the bill.

Senator Wilson made a motion to pass **HB 2629** out favorably. Senator Apple seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Wilson will carry the bill.

Senator Wilson made a motion to pass **HB 2930** out favorably. Senator Apple seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Wilson will carry the bill.

Senator Schmidt made a motion to pass **HB 2931** out favorably. Senator Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Donovan will carry the bill.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2006.