

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:35 a.m. on February 2, 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

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 276 - Providing for separate United States army, navy, air force, marine corps and coast guard or merchant marine license plates.**

Bruce Kinzie, staff revisor, explained the history of current veterans license plates and that the individual requesting this bill wanted embossed plates for each branch of the military. He noted that military plates are not subject to the distinguished license plates requirements and fees.

Chairman Umbarger referred to the discussion at the January 26 committee meeting in regard to the Department of Revenue and Division of Vehicle's computer system overhaul. A question was directed to the Division of Vehicles asking why they could not accommodate any license plate designs with the current system. Mr. Roy Wilkland, Title Manager of Titles and Registration, Division of Motor Vehicles, responded that there wasn't enough manpower; all of their programmers are assigned to the new project.

There being no conferees, the hearing on **SB 276** was closed.

The Chairman indicated that he did not intend to take action on the bill. Senator Huntington moved, Senator Schmidt seconded, to table SB 276. Motion carried.

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department, provided an update on Federal legislation relating to **SB 295 - Blind and visually impaired persons, establishing the motor vehicle and safe mobility committee.** She stated that there are two bills in the US Senate that would address this issue, neither bill has received any action for about a year.

Following discussion that this issue would be best addressed at the federal level, Senator Apple moved, Senator Huntington seconded, to table SB 295. Motion carried.

Chairman Umbarger requested a briefing on **SB 480 - Regulating traffic; license plates.** Bruce Kinzie explained the intent of the bill is to address the problem of plastic license plate covers, or anything that obscures the reading of the license plate. Discussion followed and the Chairman announced there would be a hearing for this bill next week.

Jill Shelley presented an update on U.S. Department of Transportation's ban on texting by truck and bus drivers (Attachment 1). She also provided bill comparisons for the texting legislation that is currently up for consideration before the 2010 State and Federal Legislatures (Attachment 2).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2010.