

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION &amp; TOURISM COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Ben Vidricksen at 9:05 a.m. on February 23, 2000 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:   Michael Byington, Envision  
Carole Keedy, KS Assn for Blind/Visually Impaired  
Mike Crow, KDOT  
Bryan Shields, Overland Park  
Mike Taylor, City of Wichita  
Dan Harden, Riley County  
Sandy Jacquot, Ks. League of Municipalities

Others attending:       See attached list

**SB 522: Act enacting the pedestrian safety act**

Michael Byington, Director, Envision Governmental Affairs Office stated that this bill is a model of a bill that was promoted by some of the aging lobbies in Washington and by the American Council for the Blind. They would like to see this legislation in every state. Standardization is badly needed He provided some simple exercises which, if performed can provided the sighted with some understanding of the problems involved (Attachment 1) Carole Keedy, Legislative Chair for the Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (KABVI) furnished additional background information relating to the need for this legislation (Attachment 2) Both conferees stressed that this is not intended to be a mandate, but is meant to be incorporated in future planning and developments.

All of the following appeared in opposition to **SB 522**.

Mike Crow, Chief of the Bureau of Traffic Engineering, Kansas Department of Transportation (Attachment 3). Mr. Crow advised KDOT already considers pedestrian safety in their planning and this would just add another layer of bureaucracy to the process.

Bryan Shields, Traffic Engineer, Overland Park, Kansas, provided statistics on their pedestrian accidents, current design practices and cost of this proposed legislation (Attachment 4). Mike Taylor, Government Relations Director, City of Wichita (Attachment 5); Dan Harden, Traffic Engineer/Public Works Director, Riley County (Attachment 6); and Sandra Jacquot, Kansas League of Municipalities (Attachment 7) all had numerous concerns regarding a wide variety of issues relating to this legislation. Written testimony from Donald R. Seifert, Management Services Director, City of Olathe (Attachment 8) raised much the same concerns regarding loss of local control and the costs involved.

As there seems to be many areas to be considered, the Chair advised that time does not permit further action on **SB 522** . It was suggested that perhaps this issue might be more suitably studied during the interim, if approval can be obtained from the Legislative Oversight Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2000.