

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on March 14, 2002 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Harrington
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: John Peterson, Segway LLC

Others attending: See attached list

HB 2663: Re electronic personal assistive mobility device

John C. Peterson, representing Segway LLC, explained that this bill defines an Electric Personal Assistance Mobility Device as a self-balancing two, non-tandem, wheeled device. The system is limited to a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour, or less. This type of new transportation technology is not currently defined in Kansas motor vehicle laws. The purpose of the bill is to amend the motor vehicle code to provide legal and regulatory structure for the operation of such a device (attachment 1).

Mr. Peterson provided a brief video presentation extracted from a segment shown on the "Good Morning America" TV show. The device was designed and is being marketed by Dean Kamen, inventor of the Kamen heart stent. Segway LLC is Mr. Kamen's company. Members also received copies of two newspaper articles on the device; one from the *WALL STREET JOURNAL* of March 1, 2002, titled "Rolling Along;" and another from the *LAWRENCE JOURNAL WORLD*, January 14, 2002, titled "Ginger" which refers to the device as a "human transporter." The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has ruled it is not a "motor vehicle." The bill basically puts this system in the same category as motorized wheelchairs.

Following clarification regarding the difference between tandem wheeled motorized units and this two wheeled device, Senator Salmans moved to recommend HB 2663 favorable for passage. Senator Gooch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes

Senator Gooch moved to approve minutes of the March 12, 2002 meeting. Senator Salmans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2002.