

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on February 26, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley- excused

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Major Mark Bruce, Kansas Highway Patrol

Bob Bethell, Representative, State of Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 480 - Regulating traffic; license plates**. Bruce Kinzie, staff revisor, reviewed the bill stating that violations of license plate visibility, including plastic coverings, would become a traffic infraction instead of a misdemeanor resulting in a \$60 fine plus court costs. It was noted that the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget is incorrect and would be corrected when the Kansas Legislative Research Department prepares a supplemental note.

Major Mark Bruce, appeared on behalf of Colonel Terry Maple and the Kansas Highway Patrol in support of the intent of **SB 480**. He stated that license plates which are not clearly visible jeopardize the safety of law enforcement officers and may adversely affect the safety of law-abiding citizens. This bill also enhances the public's ability to assist law enforcement by being able to report a suspect and vehicle description, including license plate information, increasing the possibility of apprehending the offender (Attachment 1).

Bob Bethell, Representative, State of Kansas, testified as a proponent of **SB 480**. He indicated that this bill benefits the people of Kansas in the area of public safety. The covering of a license plate is a detriment to the ability to easily view the plate and he can find no valid reason to cover a plate unless one wants to obscure view of the plate (Attachment 2).

Discussion followed regarding language to address license plate frame coverings. An amendment was requested to clarify language.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 480** was closed.

The Chairman called attention to final action on **SB 544 - Metropolitan transit authority, definition of metropolitan area**.

Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Huntington seconded, to recommend SB 544 favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2010.