

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on January 19, 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  
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Cindy Shepard, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Michael Byington, Volunteer C.E.O., Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Nannette S. Easterling, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist,  
Marilyn Lind, Board of Directors, Topeka Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Others attending:

See attached list.

### Bill Introductions

Chairman Umbarger requested the introduction of a bill relating to uninsured motorists. Senator Donovan moved, Senator Petersen seconded, to introduce the bill. Motion carried.

Richard A. Samaniego, on behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association, requested the introduction of a bill allowing additional vehicle registration locations. Senator Huntington moved, Senator Schmidt seconded, to introduce the bill. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 295 - Blind and visually impaired persons, establishing the motor vehicle and safe mobility committee.**

Michael Byington, Volunteer C.E.O., Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, testified in support of **SB 295** stating that it would require the convening of a “quiet motor vehicle and safe mobility committee” to develop state standards for sounds that quiet cars need to make if licensed in Kansas. More and more quiet cars (hybrids that are quiet and all electrics) are coming into the market, and they make absolutely no sound when idling and very little sound when moving at city speeds. It is essential that a pedestrian whom experiences visual, cognitive, or attention related disabilities not be literally blind-sided by vehicles that make no noise (Attachment 1).

Nannette S. Easterling, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist presented testimony in favor of **SB 295**. She stated that she teaches individuals who are blind or visually impaired how to become more independent and productive. A higher level of independence contributes to the ability to obtain and maintain employment, Without this independence a person who is blind or visually impaired must depend either on family members or on publicly funded supports. She raised the question, if you were blind, crossing a five lane street and could not hear a quiet car, would you walk in front of its path (Attachment 2)?

Marilyn Lind, Board of Directors, Topeka Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired, appeared as a proponent of **SB 295**. She described an incident where she was nearly hit by a car that made no sound. She included a copy of a newspaper article that recounts the experience (Attachment 3).

Written testimony in support of **SB 295** was submitted by:

Donna Wood, National Federation of the Blind of Kansas (Attachment 4)

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 295** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2010.