

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 p.m. on March 2, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Barbara Ballard, excused  
Representative Jeff King, excused  
Representative Marvin Kleeb, excused  
Representative Julie Menghini, excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Betty Boaz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kent Biggs, Detective with Topeka Police Department  
April Holman, KS Action for Children  
Charles Lecher, Johnson County Treasurer

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Hayzlett called the meeting to order. He opened hearings on **SB 367**.

**SB 367 - Regulating traffic; enforcement of helmet law for motorcycles**

The first proponent was Kent Biggs, a detective with the Topeka Police Department. (Attachment #1) According to Detective Biggs, this bill corrects an unrecognized oversight in the protection of those who can not make decisions for themselves. He said current law prohibits the operation of a motorcycle without wearing a helmet but allows the rider to take a child along without any such protection. This bill would make it a violation of Kansas law to allow or permit any person under the age of 18 to operate or ride on a motorcycle or motorized bicycle without a helmet. Detective Biggs stood for questions.

The next proponent was April Holman, Director of Fiscal Focus, KS Action for Children. (Attachment #2) According to Ms. Holman, there is a loophole in existing law that should be closed by requiring children to wear a helmet when riding on a motorcycle. She said studies conducted by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration have found that motorcycle helmets prevent injury and saves lives and that head injuries are the leading cause of death from motorcycle accidents. The study showed that a motorcyclist is approximately 37 times more likely to die in a crash than someone riding in a passenger car. Ms. Holman cited a study that was conducted by the University of Southern California concluding that wearing helmets was the single most important factor in surviving motorcycle accidents. She stood for questions.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to written testimony provided by James Hanni, AAA Allied Group (Attachment #3) and Ed Klumpp, representing KS Association of Chiefs of Police (Attachment #4) both in support of **SB 367**.

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There being no other conferees Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **SB 367** and opened the hearing on **SB 408**.

**SB 408 - County treasurers, additional locations for vehicle registrations**

The Chairman recognized Charles Lecher, Johnson County Treasurer. (Attachment #5) According to Mr. Lecher this bill would allow county treasurers the option to charge a satellite registration fee of up to \$5 at a satellite registration facility used for motor vehicle registrations. Mr. Lecher said the term "satellite registration facility" is not clearly defined and Johnson County has requested the word "satellite" be removed

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from the existing language and a clear definition of the type of facility that qualified for the additional fee included. He stood for questions.

There were no other proponents and no opponents. Chairman Hayzlett drew the Committee's attention to written testimony provided by Randall Allen, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Counties, in support of **SB 408**. (Attachment #6)

There being no additional business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned.



