

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on February 1 , 2001 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: Steve Kearney, Representing Collins Industries  
Barbara Pringle, KS Pupil Transportation Assn.  
Pat Barnes, KS Automobile Dealers Assn.  
Jack Woolf, Midwest Bus Sales  
Brilla Scott, United School Administrators  
Kent Tyler, Collins Industries

Others attending: See attached list

Each member received a public information flyer related to the Kansas State Trooper Safety Bill which came out of Senate Transportation Committee and became effective July 1, 2000. Copies are available from the Kansas Department of Transportation or the Kansas Highway Patrol.

**SB 21: School transportation; relating to definition of buses**

Prior to testimony on **SB-21** members received the Fiscal Note (Attachment 1) and absentee testimony from Don L. McNeely, President, Kansas Automobile Dealers Association, "Use of Nonconforming Vehicles for School Transportation (Attachment 2).

Steve Kearney, representing Collins Industries presented a video which graphically depicted lack of safety for students transported in non-school bus vehicles, designed for 10 to 15 passengers. Jim Elliot, Bryce Pfister and Kent Tyler from Collins Industries were also present to answer questions.

Barbara Pringle, Executive Secretary for Kansas State Pupil Transportation Association, speaking from a background of extensive experience and qualifications presented background information and materials regarding the Kansas definition of school buses. She strongly urged support of **SB 21** (Attachment 3). Ms. Pringle advised there are no special reporting requirements for accidents involving the nonconforming vehicles.

Pat Barnes, Kansas Automobile Dealers Association provided materials relating to current federal and state laws and how automobile dealers are affected by them (Attachment 4).

Brilla Scott, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas advised that most are following federal guidelines, but under present Kansas school districts are free to ignore them and this does happen and they want this to not happen (Attachment 5).

Jack Woolf has spent 30 years in pupil transportation and was recently certified by the National Association as a Director of Pupil Transportation. He was the 45<sup>th</sup> individual to achieve this national recognition. From all of this experience he believes current Kansas law that permits use of nonconforming vans must be removed hence he strongly urged support for **SB 21** (Attachment 6). He asked members to pay particular attention to pages 5 through 8 of his testimony.

Kent Tyler, Collins Industries' testimony includes a description of basic differences between vans and school buses. There is also information on federal standards, laws, rules and regulations as well as details regarding safety issues (Attachment 7). Members learned that these "extended" vans are not subject to safety testing and requirements with which smaller vans, minivans, SUVs, etc. must comply. They were originally designed to haul cargo and have virtually no passenger safety features.

CONTINUATION SHEET

**Approval of minutes**

Senator Goodwin moved to approve minutes of the January 31, 2001 meeting. Senator Salmans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2001.