

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on February 20, 2002 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: Dennis Haake, R. L. Polk & Co.

Others attending: See attached list

Overview of motor vehicle information services provided in Kansas

Mr. Haake's presentation included information on the history of R. L. Polk & Co. which was established in 1870 and still remains in the hands of the Polk family. He wished to explain some of the products they offer, and what is done with data they acquire. Polk no longer produces city directories. They now focus exclusively on the automotive industry. Car Fax, a wholly owned subsidiary of R. L. Polk & Company, works closely with many Kansas state agencies. They do not release personal data. They deal with automotive statistics. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) information is provided, free of charge, to law enforcement agencies. Anyone can access a certain amount of free information through their computers by going to www.carfax.com. You must provide a VIN number and your zip code. Whatever you want to know about a used car can be obtained from Car Fax. They also provide information on motorcycles, RV's, tractor/trailer trucks, etc. They do not deal with airplanes and boats (attachment 1).

Members wished to know about dealings with the State of Kansas. Mr. Haake advised that data is received on a weekly basis from Kansas and is very current, compared to some of the other states' data. Kansas data is on the upper end, as far as cost goes. Data does not go back prior to 1981. It was at that time the 17 digit VIN came into use. Every digit provides identification information and this is very beneficial to both dealers and customers. Information obtained thru this system lets people know what they are buying. Other means of transportation; i.e., aircraft, is not included in the data base. That can be obtained thru Aviation Data Processing in Wichita

Sheila Walker, Director, Division of Motor Vehicles, KDOR was in the audience and when asked, stated they enjoy a very professional relationship with Polk/Car Fax and hope to continue that relationship. The Company provides a good service. The recall program is just one example of where such service is invaluable. Mr. Haake stated that often there is a minimum turn around time for recall information required by manufacturers - as short as 72 hours. Don McNeely, Kansas Automobile Dealers Association, was also present and commented on the value of this service to his Association members. It is an especially valuable selling tool. .

Approval of minutes

Senator Gooch moved to approve minutes of the February 14, 2002 meeting. Senator Salmans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2002.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE at 8:30 a.m. on January 20, 2002 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.