MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:10 a.m. on April 6, 2000 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.	Senator Laurie Bleeker
	Senator John Vratil
Committee staff present:	Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Commutee Suit present.	Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
	Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
	Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary
Conferees appearing before the comm	ittee: Ron Fehr, Acting City Manager, City of Manhattan
	Steven Galitzer, Dept. of Environmental Health & Safety
	Secretary Dean Carlson, Sec. Ks. Dept. of Transportation
	Jim Plover, Energy Program Manager Ks. Corp. Comm.

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairman Oleen opened the hearing on

SB 671-slow moving electric vehicles

She stated that because of the number of conferees on the bill all questions would be held until everyone had an opportunity to testify.

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes, presented a review of the bill. She stated that this bill covers four wheel slow moving vehicles whose speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour in accordance with national highway and traffic safety administration standards.

Senator Becker questioned if these cars would be licensed. Sheila Walker, Director of Vehicles, stated all four wheel vehicles that meet the road worthy requirements are licensed and taxed. She stated that these vehicles would have a car tag on them.

Chairman Oleen recognized Ron Fehr, Acting City Manager for the City of Manhattan and Representative for the Manhattan Area Clean Cities Coalition, as a proponent to <u>SB 671.</u> Mr. Fehr stated that the city of Manhattan has been selected for the nationwide production of a vehicle for the Ford *Th!nk Neighbor* which will begin this fall. (<u>Attachment 1</u>) He stated that the market for neighborhood electric vehicles is growing at a rapid rate for "closed communities" such as university, corporate campuses, and within downtown or retail areas. Mr. Fehr stated that twenty-seven states now legally permit these vehicles to be operated on streets with posted speed limits of 35 miles per hour or less. Mr. Fehr gave several reasons for supporting the bill for these vehicles including 1) the use of alternative fuels, 2) the economic development for Kansas and 3) the fact there is no fiscal cost to the state. Written letters supporting this bill are attached from Kansas Power and Light (<u>Attachment 2)</u>; Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce (<u>Attachment 3</u>) ; and Kansas City Clean Cities Coalition (<u>Attachment 4</u>).

Chairman Oleen recognized Steven Galitzer, Director, Department of Environmental Health & Safety, Kansas State University, as a proponent to <u>SB 671.</u> Mr. Galitzer stated that Kansas State University has been a leader in alternative fuel research for many years. Mr. Galitzer stated that K-State is starting on a path to include alternative fuel vehicles in their motor pools and one leg will be the inclusion of low-speed vehicles powered by electricity. (<u>Attachment 5).</u> Mr. Galitzer stated that use of these low-speed vehicles at the university may encourage the public

CONTINUATION SHEET

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to invest in these fuel alternative vehicles.

Chairman Oleen recognized Secretary Dean Carlson, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation as an proponent to <u>SB 671.</u> Secretary Carlson stated that the Department of Transportation is aware that electric vehicles of this nature can play an important role in maintaining air quality in urban centers. (Attachment 6). He stated that with the restrictions placed on where such vehicles can operate no new or additional safety hazards are anticipated. Secretary Carlson noted that the Department of Transportation concurs that these vehicles can be exempt from the "slow moving vehicle" placards.

Chairman Oleen recognized Jim Plover, Energy Program Manager for the Kansas Corporation Commission, as a proponent to <u>SB 671.</u> Mr. Plover stated that the low cost of these vehicles and convenience of recharging make it a viable option for a second car. (<u>Attachment 7</u>). Mr. Plover stated that <u>SB 671</u> is essential in order that these vehicles can be legally driven in the city and state where they are to be manufactured.

Chairman Oleen recognized Sue Peterson, Kansas State University, as a proponent. Ms. Peterson stated that she was appearing on behalf of Jon Wefald, President Kansas State University, to express K-State's support of <u>SB 671</u>. She stated that this project will put Kansas on the map for alternative vehicle production. (<u>Attachment 8</u>).

Senator Vidricksen ask if the vehicle included side panels and about how the battery would be recharged. Mr. Fehr referred to his testimony which included pictures of these vehicles and stated that side panels were optional and that the frame was constructed of aluminum. He stated that recharging was kept very simple and was done on a 110 watt outlet.

Senator Gooch noted that in Wichita there were several streets in his neighborhood that had a 40 mile per hour speed limit. He ask if there would be any objection from the committee or from the sponsors of the bill if it were amended to state streets of 40 mile per hour. After discussion with staff from Kansas Director of Vehicles, Senator Oleen ask that they check to see if this would violate federal regulations and report back. Chairman Oleen noted that this amendment could be made on the floor.

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statute stated that there was a technical amendment needed to show the correct C.F.R. number.

Chairman Oleen closed the hearing on **<u>SB 671.</u>**

Chairman Oleen ask for committee action on this bill. <u>Senator Vidricksen moved to amend the bill with the technical</u> <u>amendment proposed by Revisor of Statute</u>. <u>Senator Harrington seconded the motion</u>. <u>The motion carried</u>. <u>Senator</u> <u>Vidricksen moved to report favorably **SB 671** to the full Senator. Senator Gooch seconded the motion. The motion <u>carried</u>.</u>

Chairman Oleen ask for action on committee minutes for March 31, and April 5, 2000. <u>Senator Jones moved to approved the minutes</u>, Senator Harrington seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10. The next meeting will be April 7, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.