

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rep. Gary Hayzlett at 1:40 p.m. on March 8, 2000 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Andrew Howell, excused
Representative Dennis McKinney, excused
Representative Don Myers, excused

Committee Staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Research Department
Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Nancey Harrington
Leslie Kaufman, Assistant Director, Public Policy, Kansas Farm Bureau
Sgt. Rusty James, Lenexa Police Department
Charles Tippie, Overland Park Police Department

Others attending:

See attached list

SB 369 - restricted drivers licenses - school sponsored activities

Chairman Hayzlett opened hearings on **SB 369** and called on Senator Harrington as the first proponent. She said the bill allows for restricted drivers to drive to school sponsored activities outside the normal school class hours. An amendment was added in the Senate which states participation does not include being merely a spectator at such school activities, but actually participating, and with this amendment passed the Senate 40-0. She asked support of **SB 369**. (Attachment 1)

Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Farm Bureau, spoke in support of **SB 369**. She said the change to current statute which is requested in **SB 369** is a logical attempt to clarify a sometimes confusing area of law - whether or not teens on a farm permit, or restricted license, can drive to school activities. She stated clarification of the wording "participation" to make it clear the driving allowance goes only to those that are actually active in the school sponsored event, and not merely a spectator or audience member, as they had requested, made **SB 369** acceptable to them. (Attachment 2)

There were no other proponents to testify so Chairman Hayzlett called on Sgt. Rusty James of the Lenexa Police Department who testified in opposition to **SB 369**. He told the committee he was representing other law enforcement agencies in the Kansas City Metro area as well as the Lenexa Police Department, and they had serious concerns in that they are opposed to the relaxation of the current law that governs restricted driver licenses for young drivers. He said the current law and versions of the law that preceded it, which allows young drivers to drive to and from school, on days that school is in session, for the purposes of school attendance, was born out of necessity. **SB 369** was born out of convenience. In summary, he said, they feel the current laws adequately address the need for young drivers to be issued restricted driver licenses and when it is necessary for a young person to have a restricted driver license, the current laws have the necessary restrictions to make it as safe as possible for them to drive to school and work. (Attachment 3)

Representative Johnston asked if there were any statistics available as to how many 15 year olds were involved in accidents versus 16-17 year olds last year. Hank Avila, Research, said he would furnish this information to the committee.

Charles Tippie, Overland Park Police Department, spoke also in opposition to **SB 369**. He stated there had been 100 accidents involving drivers 16 and under so far this year in the Overland Park area. He told the committee it was his feeling that drivers education was a necessity and that inexperience, not alcohol, was the main cause of these accidents. Upon request by the committee he said he would provide information showing the break down of the cause of these accidents and the age of the drivers involved.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, Room 519-S Statehouse, at 1:40 p.m. on March 8, 2000.

There being no other opponents Chairman Hayzlett closed hearings on **SB 369**.

A letter from the Kansas Contractors Association, Inc. was distributed to the committee outlining the details of the joint House and Senate Transportation trip to the East Topeka Interchange project and the NASCAR racetrack construction site in Kansas City on Monday, March 13th. . (Attachment 4)

Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the House Transportation Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14th, 2000 in Room 519-S.

