

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 P.M. on March 8, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Virginia Beamer- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Boaz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Marcy Ralston, Chief, Driver Control Bureau
Senator Laura Kelly
Representative Mike Burgess
Deb Miller, Secretary, KS Department of Transportation
Lt. John Eichkorn, KS Highway Patrol

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Hayzlett started the meeting by opening **SB 371**.

SB 371 - Commercial Driver's Licenses, providing penalties, notification

The Chairman recognized Marcy Ralston, Chief, Driver Review Division as the first proponent for **SB 371**. (Attachment #1) Ms. Ralston said that **SB 371** concerns commercial drivers' licenses and addresses several amendments that will bring Kansas into compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act. She said it includes a change to the Kansas definition of hazardous materials to match the federal definition.

There were no other proponents and no opponents. Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **SB 371** and opened the hearing on **SB 411**.

SB 411 - Traffic regulations, duty of driver approaching highway construction vehicles

The first proponent was Representative Mike Burgess. (Attachment #2) According to Representative Burgess, **SB 411** is an important step towards improving the safety of highway workers across the state. He said this bill requires drivers, when approaching stationary highway vehicles displaying flashing lights, to change lanes into a lane that is not adjacent to the highway vehicle when it is safe to do so or if not, to reduce their speed. He said this measure would be similar to the requirement for emergency vehicles.

The next proponent was Deb Miller, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation. (Attachment #3) Secretary Miller said that in the past year, KDOT had two tragic reminders of the dangers of working alongside highways. She said the employees followed agency safety procedures, however, these accidents indicate that more is needed to improve the safety of the highway workers.

Senator Laura Kelly was the next proponent for **SB 411**. (Attachment #4) Senator Kelly said she requested this bill because of the importance of improving the safety of highway workers throughout the state. She said this bill requires drivers to move away from highway vehicles displaying a flashing light.

The last proponent for **SB 411** was Lt. John Eichkorn, representing the Kansas Highway Patrol. (Attachment #5) Lt. Eichkorn said that during the 2000 Legislative session, the Patrol supported a bill which created provisions requiring drivers to slow down and move away from stationary emergency vehicles displaying flashing lights. He said this bill would create similar requirements for vehicles engaged in highway work, such as KDOT road crews and KHP/KDOT Motor Assist Vehicles.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Transportation Committee at 1:30 P.M. on March 8, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

There were no other proponents and no opponents, after questions, the Chairman closed the hearing on **SB 411**.

It was the Chairman's desire to work HB 2780. Representative Faber made a motion to remove the contents from HB 2780, remove the contents of HB 2513, and insert contents of HB 2780 into HB 2513. This motion was seconded by Representative Olson and the motion carried.

Representative George made a motion to pass Substitute HB 2513, Representative Treaster seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett opened **SB 371** to the Committee for questions, comments or motions. Representative Olson made a motion to favorably pass SB 371 out of Committee, the motion was seconded by Representative Ruiz and the motion carried.

Representative Treaster introduced his pages from Nickerson High School and their Government teacher.

There being no further business before the Committee, the Chairman adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be March 13, 2006, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 519-S.