

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary Hazylett at 1:35 p.m. on March 8, 2001 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Eber Phelps, excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor

Hank Avila, Research

Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dennis Schoenebeck, General Executive, Wichita YMCA

Brilla Highfill Scott, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas

Barbara Pringle, Executive Secretary, Kansas State Pupil Transportation Organization

Senator Les Donovan

Others attending: See attached list

SB 115 - requirement for church or daycare program buses

Chairman Hayzlett opened hearings on **SB 115** and called on Dennis Schoenebeck, General Executive, Wichita YMCA, who spoke in support of the bill. He told the committee the safety of our youth is their number one priority and that is one reason their busses are yellow - not to alert drivers that they are a particular school district but that they are carrying children and caution must be taken because of this. He then listed seven practices they follow to ensure the safety of the children they transport. He said they service up to 500 youth per day with transportation through the After-School Programs, school swimming programs, summer camps and weekend leadership programs. Painting their 11 buses at a cost of \$30,000-\$35,000 would not be a good use of funds. With this bill, they will be able to continue and expand their efforts to serve the entire community. (Attachment 1)

There being no other proponents, and no opponents listed, Chairman Hayzlett closed hearings on **SB 115**.

There being no objections from the committee, and with the permission of Representative Phelps who was excused, Chairman Hayzlett opened the floor for discussion and final action on **SB 115**.

Representative Pauls offered an amendment which would add a new Section 1 and 2 and renumber Section 1 to become new Section 3 and renumber Section 2 to become new Section 4. This was seconded by Representative Dillmore. She explained this amendment would pick up some of the qualifications that were contained in **SB 21** which did not pass on the Senate side. She said this amendment was supported by the State Department of Education and also the United School Administrators.

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor, explained the bill and amendment further. He said prohibiting school districts from using vans as a school bus is a safety factor - the sides of the vans are not as thick and sturdy as a school bus. However, he said there is a lag time in this amendment which would allow school districts that have bought these vans they will still be allowed to use them for a period of 3 years so they will not have to go out and purchase other vans right away. It was his understanding the cost is not great between the purchase of an extended 12 passenger van and the actual little school buses.

Barbara Pringle, Executive Secretary, Kansas State Pupil Transportation Organization, stated they actually were wanting to change the law back to the federal standards that were in place before two years ago. She said after the Salina School District had accepted the donation of a 14 passenger van they couldn't find an insurance company that would insure them. This amendment would not exclude the use of cars or suburbans. What it is excluding is the 14 passenger van which has been designed as a cargo vehicle and they have put a few extra seats in them and called them a "passenger van". However, when they put the extension on they didn't add the crash protection they would have up in the front part of the regular passenger compartment.

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, Room 519-S of the Capitol at 1:40 p.m. on February 8, 2001.

Senator Donovan, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, explained one member was absent when they had the hearing on **SB 21** in the Senate Transportation Committee, three voted against it and three voted for it. He wanted to keep the bill alive because he thought it was an important bill so he voted to take no action on the bill. He said his main concern was the pupils sitting behind the last two seats in the van have no way to get out of the vehicle. He said he has requested Don McNeeley, Kansas Automobile Dealers, to send out a memo in his next newsletter to all the dealers to be extremely careful if they get requests from schools for these 14 passenger vans to not sell them to the school.

Brilla Highfill Scott, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas, said they were supportive of the amendment. She told the committee this amendment brings the Kansas statutes into line with federal regulations and in checking with school administrators across the state most are following the federal guidelines at the present time. (Attachment 2)

Representative Ballou made a substitute motion to pass **SB 115**, without the amendment, seconded by Representative Powell. The substitute motion failed

Chairman Hayzlett called for a vote on the amendment by Representative Pauls, which was seconded by Representative Dillmore and the motion carried.

Representative Humerickhouse offered an amendment which would make the effective date when printed in the Register, seconded by Representative Osborne and the motion carried.

Representative Osborne made a motion to pass **SB 115** favorably, as amended, seconded by Representative Levinson and the motion carried.

Chairman Hayzlett adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m. The next meeting of the House Transportation Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 13th, 2001 in Room 519-S.