

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

**Call to Order:** By VICE CHAIRMAN MACK COLE, on April 17, 1997, at  
1:30 PM, in ROOM 413

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Arnie A. Mohl, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Mack Cole, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Larry Baer (R)  
Sen. Bob DePratu (R)  
Sen. John R. Hertel (R)  
Sen. Ric Holden (R)  
Sen. Reiny Jabs (R)  
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)  
Sen. Linda J. Nelson (D)  
Sen. Barry "Spook" Stang (D)

**Members Excused:**

Senator Arnie Mohl  
Senator Ric Holden  
Senator Greg Jergeson  
Senator Linda Nelson

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Connie Erickson, Legislative Services Division  
Phoebe Kenny, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 616: posted 4-16-97  
Executive Action: HB 616

**HEARING ON HB 616**

**Sponsor:** REPRESENTATIVE SHIELL ANDERSON, HD 25, Livingston

**Proponents:**

REPRESENTATIVE DEB KOTTEL, HB 45, Great Falls  
Dean Roberts, Motor Vehicle Division

Opponents:None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE SHIELL ANDERSON, HD 25, LIVINGSTON, I appreciate your convening. This bill is on the fast track. What happened is we had a number of license plate bills in the House Transportation committee, everything from Girls Scouts to mass murderers wanted license plates. It has been our feeling that personalized plates make it harder for law enforcement to do their jobs, and we are just getting to many specialized plates out there, you don't even know if they are from your states. We were left with nothing to allow us to use the old license plates that the colleges now use. The Universities get \$20 dollars per plate so we were concerned about that. We wanted to have a bill to allow this to happen. This way as long as stock exists they can purchase the old plates.

Proponents' Testimony:

REPRESENTATIVE DEB KOTTEL, I am a professor at the University of Great Falls. Obviously alumni have a loyalty to where they graduated from. When all those institutions changed their names their plates changed. This is just honoring alumni choice. It is also good government. They have plates sitting there already made. If this bill did not pass we would have to destroy a resource that has already been made and in place and that is silly. So this just allows the old plates to be sold as long as the stock remains. I ask for your consideration.

Dean Roberts, Motor Vehicle Division, we support this bill. It is absolutely correct that we have a lot of material left for all the colleges as they existed before the name change. It is good government to leave those plates out there for those folks who wish to purchase them. This program brings in \$223,000 a year for the colleges. Handouts, (EXHIBITS 1 and 2).

Opponents' Testimony:None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR REINY JABS, are they making new plates for MSU Billings now?

Dean Roberts, yes, this gives us the ability to do that.

SENATOR JABS, how are you going to use the old plates up? Will they have a choice of what plates they want to buy?

Dean Roberts, yes, they can buy either one.

SENATOR JABS, if I have a plate and I lose one can you make a new one?

Dean Roberts, yes, at a cost of \$2.00.

Closing by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON, you probably read a lot about this in the press, it is one I campaigned on hard. It really deserves no more explanation. I hope you can zip it through before we conclude here. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 616

Motion/Vote: SENATOR "SPOOK" STANG moved HB 616 BE CONCURRED IN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 1:40

  
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SEN. MACK COLE, Vice Chairman

  
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PHOEBE KENNY, Secretary

MC/PK