

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 25, 1977

The Committee on Highways and Transportation was called to order on January 25, 1977, at 4:00 p.m. with Chairman Baeth presiding and all members present, except for Representative Mular, who was excused.

Three bills were scheduled for discussion today: HB 158, HB 159, HJR 11.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

Representative Wes Teague, chief sponsor for this resolution, gave some background on it. He stated that the people of Montana believe the 55 mph speed limit is not justified for this state because of the large distances between towns, unlike most states. He feels this slightly higher speed of 65 mph would not affect total vehicle consumption.

The chairman stated that there are approximately three other bills on this subject and this one will be held for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 158

Representative Steve Waldron, chief sponsor of this bill, gave out copies of an attorney general opinion and also a report on revisions of snowmobile registration laws. The terms "record title" and "registration" were changed to "certificate of ownership" and "certificate" for clarification. It also defines "snowmobile" to exclude all-terrain vehicles. Some of these changes are by direction of the attorney general opinion.

This bill also raises a transfer fee from \$2 to \$3 in line with other transfer fees.

Proponent Ken Hoovestol, representative of Montana Snowmobile Association, stated they were in support of all the changes in this bill; however, he pointed out that SB 177 has been introduced by Senator Dunkle which includes these changes.

There were no opponents.

There was a discussion held on the splitting of transfer fees between the state and the county.

Representative Waldron stated that he would have no objections with the committee tabling this bill until the Senate bill is received.

HOUSE BILL 159

Representative Waldron, chief sponsor of this bill, stated this bill extends the grace period of registering snowmobiles from 10 to 20 days and also creates a penalty fee of \$15 in transferring titles on a timely basis.

Proponent Ken Hoovestol, representative of Montana Snowmobile Association, stated they did not have basic disagreement on this bill. However, he mentioned that owners, as a rule, do not register snowmobiles until fall, even if they purchase them earlier in the year. From a practical standpoint, there will be a lot of penalties because of this seasonal habit of owners. He also stated that this bill is not covered in the Senate Bill 177.

Representative Waldron stated that a sentence should be added that the full penalty fees should go to the county treasurer.

Hearing ended on House Bill 159.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session began after the hearing of HB 159.

HOUSE BILL 82

Representative Kropp made a motion to amend HB 82 by removing "one-half ton in weight" and adding "three-quarter ton GVW-rated capacity" on page 1, lines 6 and 20. Also page 2, line 5. Also to strike the words "permanently and totally" and insert "100%" on page 1, lines 15 and 23.

Representative Hansen seconded this motion. Motion carried unanimously. Representative Keyser motioned that HB 82, as amended, do pass. Representative Kropp seconded it. Motion carried unanimously. Representative Mular absent.

HOUSE BILL 87

Representative Keyser moved that HB 87 do pass. Representative Kropp seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Rep. Mular absent.

HOUSE BILL 125

Representative Keyser stated that the subcommittee on this bill has met on HB 125. Their findings will be ready for the committee's consideration at the next meeting.

HOUSE BILL 159

Representative Kanduch made a motion that we amend this bill so that the \$15 penalty fee belongs to the county treasurer. The bill is to be amended on page 1, line 24 - after the word "\$15" change the period to ", which shall be deposited in the county general fund." This same change would be on page 3, line 10. Representative Kropp seconded this motion. Motion carried unanimously. Representative Mular absent.

Mr. Wood moved to change the penalty of \$15 to \$10. Mr. Ernest seconded it. Roll call vote was taken: 8 nos, 4 yeses, 1 absent. This amendment not carried. The yes votes: Kropp, Hansen, Ernest, Wood. Representative Mular absent.

Representative Underdal made a motion that HB 159, as amended, do pass. Representative Kanduch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

William R. Baeth
WILLIAM R. BAETH, CHAIRMAN