

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE

February 10, 1977

The Committee on Highways and Transportation was called to order on February 10, 1977 at 3:30 p.m. with Chairman Baeth presiding and all members were present.

The following bills were scheduled for discussion today: HB 276 and HB 656.

HOUSE BILL 276

Representative Tropila, chief sponsor of this bill, introduced it for the automobile dealers. He mentioned that quite a number of representatives had signed it.

Proponent Gerald Raunig, representative of the Montana Automobile Dealers Association, said they asked for this bill to be introduced because it will accomplish two things - it will speed up the process of the title when the car is sold into neighboring states. Thirty-one states have this requirement, but Montana does not. The statement of origin will automatically be sent by the manufacturer when the state has this provision in their licensing laws. Otherwise it has to be requested, which takes time.

They feel that it will also limit new licensing on cars that are truly new. Sometimes leased cars are passed off as new cars. If this statement of origin is required, it would not be possible, as this is only issued once.

Drivers' education cars that are loaned free to the school districts had to be sold as used cars. There is another bill introduced that will exempt these cars and the dealer will keep the statement of origin until the car is sold to an individual.

With regard to demonstration cars, if they are licensed by the dealer, they will have to be sold as a used car.

There were no opponents. Hearing closed on HB 276.

HOUSE BILL 656

Representative Wood, chief sponsor of this bill, said this will allow the change of registration period of vehicles subject to an anniversary date. Present regulations allow multiple vehicles to be registered at the same time, but it is necessary to pay the tax in advance. This would allow for them to group all vehicles for one anniversary date and register them all at the same time.

There were no opponents.

Representative Keyser said it looked like this might change the registration back to what we had before, with long lines in January. Representative Wood said it could affect January, particularly. If a person owned a vehicle that had a January anniversary date, then he could change all his vehicles to a January anniversary date and register them at the same time each year instead of staggering them.

Mike Meldahl, chief of Data Processing Bureau of the Department of Justice, said this would not affect the taxes paid. The January blue book is the only one used all year. This makes it uniform for everyone, no matter which month they come in to license their vehicles.

A discussion was held on the staggered license program.

Mike Meldahl said they are working on mailing notices for cars that are due for licensing, which is helping remind people. He mentioned that there might be a small problem with GVW fees on pickups if their anniversary dates were changed. These are done quarterly. For more information, the Department of Highways GVW Division would have to be contacted.

Bob Person was requested to write an amendment for this bill that would make it impossible to register a car for less than one year.

Hearing closed on HB 656.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### HOUSE BILL 276

Rep. Keyser made a motion of DO PASS. Rep. Kanduch seconded it. It was unanimously carried.

##### HOUSE BILL 336

Rep. Mular made a motion of DO PASS. Rep. Keyser made a substitution motion of DO NOT PASS. A discussion was held.

Rep. Keyser made a substitute motion of DO NOT PASS, with an understanding that a resolution would be drafted for the Highway Department to give this portion of highway the highest priority it could. It was unanimously passed.

HOUSE BILL 393

Rep. Mular made a motion to indefinitely postpone this bill. It was seconded by Rep. Kanduch. It was unanimously carried.

HOUSE BILL 626

Rep. Kropp made a motion of DO PASS. Rep. Keyser moved for an amendment giving it a delayed effective date. Rep. Mular seconded it. The vote on the amendments were 11 yes, with Rep. Baeth and Rep. Tropila no. (11 yes, 2 no)

Rep. Kropp made a motion of AS AMENDED, DO PASS. Rep. Hansen seconded it. A discussion was held. Question: AS AMENDED, DO PASS. The vote was 7 yes with Reps. Baeth, Tropila, Mular, O'Keefe, Pistoria, Keyser and Kanduch no. (7 yes, 6 no)

Rep. Mular moved for reconsideration of vote. A second vote was taken: 6 yes with Baeth, Tropila, Mular, O'Keefe, Pistoria, Keyser and Kanduch no. (6 yes, 7 no)

Rep. Kanduch made a motion of DO NOT PASS. The vote was 7 yes with Reps. Kropp, Hansen, Frates, Underdal, Ernst, and Wood no. (7 yes, 6 no) Motion carried.

HOUSE BILL 373

Bob Person read a memorandum to the committee prepared by himself on proposed amendments on this bill according to the two sponsors.

After a discussion, Rep. Mular made a motion to send this bill to the Rules Committee for clarification, including the proposed amendments. It was unanimously carried.

SENATE BILL 134

Rep. Tropila made a motion of DO PASS. Rep. Keyser will carry it through the House. It was unanimously approved.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

The sponsor had requested some changes be made to this bill. A subcommittee was appointed: Rep. Baeth, Hansen and Wood.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

Rep. Mular moved for DO PASS. It was approved with 12 yes, Rep.  
Baeth no. (12 yes, 1 no)

William R. Baeth  
William R. Baeth, Chairman