

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 22, 1985

The thirteenth meeting of the Highways and Transportation was called to order at 2:30 p.m. on February 22, 1985 by Chairman Lawrence G. Stimatz in Room 108 of the Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present except for Senator Daniels and Senator Weeding, whom were excused.

EXECUTIVE ACTION was called to order.

Senator Stimatz stated the first order of business is take action on SB 182, which ended in a tie vote at the last meeting.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 182: Senator Farrell moved a DO PASS on SB 182.

DISCUSSION: Senator Bengston asked if this issue of moving responsibilities from one agency to another has been an issue over a long period of time, or is this the first attempt to do this? Is it so extremely important that we do something of such major significance at this particular time, because this is a drastic move. Is it possible to provide more information over a longer period of time? Senator Bengston then stated that she was not sure that PSC is not doing the job, and she was not satisfied that the Highway Department wanted the job. She felt that maybe this issue should be looked at further to see how and where it would work best.

Senator Stimatz stated that he agreed with Senator Bengston, as he served on the Highway Committee for the last two sessions and could not remember this issue ever coming up before. His chief objection to this bill was that it is a bill of extreme importance and they were hitting it with no real analysis by the agencies involved.

Senator Bengston stated that she wanted to take care of this in the right manner and she felt the information she was getting could not allow her to feel good about the bill, and would like another committee to review it.

Senator Williams asked Senator Bengston who she had in mind to review it? Senator Bengston replied by an interim committee.

Senator Stimatz stated that it could be placed in an interim committee, and it would very likely be accepted because of all the mixed feelings towards the bill. He felt that would be the best thing to do with the bill so it could be considered by the committee and then done right.

Senator Bengston asked when the money from the federal government came and who gets it now? Who is the designee? Senator Stimatz replied that if the bill gets killed, the PSC will be the designee, if the bill passes, the Highway Patrol is the designee; administra-

tively there would be no problem transferring the money.

Senator Hager stated that he liked the bill and supported it because right now there is work being done by three different agencies; GVW, Highway Patrol, and the PSC. From the standpoint of savings, it seems like it would be better under strictly one agency; in this case two agencies are involved. Three agencies are just too many.

Senator Shaw stated that this was a good bill and he supported it. He felt the public needed this bill. If passed this bill would allow all inspections to go under the Highway Patrol and would eliviate a tremendous amount of the problems that truckers have and would also be an asset to the Highway Patrol because as they hire new people they can work them into this inspection program.

Senator Bengston asked Senator Shaw what the problems were with the trucks on the highways? Senator Shaw replied, flat harrassment from the inspectors of the trucks.

Senator Farrell also replied to Senator Bengston's question by stating that one of the problems is that there are three different agencies and if you were a truck driver, who would you go to, who would you believe, and what would you do?

Senator Bengston asked why Colonel Landon didn't want this? Senator Farrell replied by suggesting that maybe because he does not want to upset the Highway Department's appropriated money for more patrolmen, cars, etc., by supporting this bill.

Senator Shaw stated that federal monies will come regardless if this bill passes or not.

Senator Bengston stated that the bill makes a lot of sense, but it is a drastic move to make in one session.

Senator Williams asked Senator Farrell how long the PSC had the authority? Senator Farrell replied that they've had the authority since 1981, but the program started with the federal money in March of 1984.

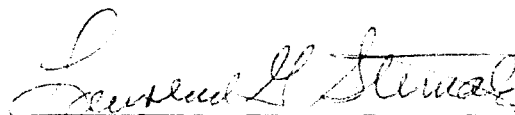
Senator Stimatz stated that he was against this bill because he felt it was premature and precipitous and the fact that he had not had a chance to consider the merits. He would rather maintain the status quo and consider this bill when a more intelligent study has been done on it.

A roll call vote was taken on Senator Farrell's motion to DO PASS. The bill passed with the vote being 6-2. (SEE EXHIBIT 1)

Disposition of Senate Bill 396 was deferred until February 23, 1985 at 1 p.m., for reasons being that the chairman of the sub-committee was not available to present the sub-committee amendments to the committee as a whole.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The committee will meet on Saturday, February 23, 1985 at 1 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence G. Stimatz", is written over a horizontal line.

LAWRENCE G. STIMATZ
Chairman

ROLL CALL

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORT. COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date 2-22-85

SENATE
SEAT
#

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
#7 SENATOR STIMATZ	X		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX			
#27 SENATOR BENGTON			
#8 SENATOR DANIELS			X
#32 SENATOR FARRELL	X		
#42 SENATOR HAGER	X		
#48 SENATOR LYBECK	X		
#23 SENATOR SHAW	X		
#3 SENATOR TVEIT	X		
#39 SENATOR WILLIAMS	X		
#26 SENATOR WEEDING			X

Each day attach to minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE

SENATE COMMITTEE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Date 2-22-85 SENATE Bill No. 182 Time 2:20 p.m.

NAME	YES	NO
SENATOR STIMATZ		X
SENATOR BENGTON		X
SENATOR DANIELS		
SENATOR FARRELL	X	
SENATOR HAGER	X	
SENATOR LYBECK	X	
SENATOR WEEDING		
SENATOR SHAW	X	
SENATOR TVEIT	X	
SENATOR WILLIAMS	X	

Margie Bender
Secretary

LAWRENCE G. STIMATZ
Chairman

Motion: DO PASS on SENATE BILL 182

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 22 1985.....

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

having had under consideration..... SENATE BILL..... No. 182

first reading copy (white)
color

MOTOR CARRIERS' SAFETY ENFORCEMENT BY HIGHWAY PATROL INSTEAD OF PSC

Respectfully report as follows: That..... Senate Bill..... No. 182

DO PASS

~~XXXXXX~~
DO NOT PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT
ADOPTED AND ATTACHED

LAWRENCE G. STINATZ

Chairman.