

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 24, 1987

The meeting of the Highways and Transportation Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on March 24, 1987, by Chairman Larry Tveit, in Room 410 of the state Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members of the Committee were present with the exception of Senator Meyer, who was absent.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 385: Representative Kadas, House District 55, sponsor of the bill, testified the bill requires the department to give notice by mail to light vehicle owners of the need to re-register his/her vehicle. Sending out mail registration notices to the owners was stopped due to the cutbacks made by the state. Rep. Kadas feels owners should be notified to re-register their motor vehicles. It would cost the state about 16 cents to notify owners of re-registration. If we don't send them out, the citizens are not going to know when re-registration is due. They will have to go to the courthouse to purchase their licenses as they will not be able to mail their registration to the department. HB 385 will help everyone involved, the county government, the taxpayer and the state government. This bill will require counties to send out notification for re-registration.

PROPOSERS: Larry Majerus, Administrator of Motor Vehicles Division, testified the department has no objection to HB 385. He would like to clarify statute in two cases. First, the present statute only requires the development of a procedure for mail renewal because the statute was written at the same time the light vehicle fee system was implemented. One of the reasons we went to a light vehicle fee system was so people could register by mail. Secondly, it sets forth the requirement for the department to provide mail renewal notice. In the old statute it just required a procedure, again theoretically, the department didn't require the actual notices prior to that renewal procedure.

There is some confusion on the Fiscal Note. The reason

the budget office decided to implement the \$52,000 difference was because the budget was short for the renewal of mail notices. Renewal notices were mailed out just last year through December. It is only January through June that has been discontinued, and that was part of the postage January through June. The actual cost of mailing was about \$88,000 for postage and another \$10,000 for printing and computer charges. The actual charge per year, if the entire year is done, is around \$100,000. The subcommittee on general government, providing funds are available, will have mail renewal in our present budget, has been passed out by the full House Appropriation Committee.

One of the difficulties presently is the amount of money available to programs from the motor vehicle account. There is not enough revenue coming into that account to fund the program that the subcommittee wishes to be funded out of.

Senate Bill 492 will provide \$1 increase in title fees and registration fees to cover those costs that are otherwise covered by an increase in user fees, or the general fund. Senate Bill 492 would provide the money necessary to fund House Bill 385 for the next 2 years. Mail renewal notices are public conveniences, and they provide for a mail-in system that is very efficient, particularly in some of our counties. Also, people have a tendency to forget to register their vehicles and by the delay, there is a loss to the counties. Mail renewal notices were started in 1979 and discontinued in January of 1987.

OPPONENTS: There were no opponents.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE: Senator Weeding said with Senator Smith's SB 200, we would be able to purchase from any Automobile Dealer Association the valuation tape. That tape would read in license numbers in our system and then sign out each of those vehicles.

Representative Kadas closed the hearing on HB 385.

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DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 385: Discussion by the committee was held, and the committee had a negative feeling about the bill and said we do not need to provide for re-registration. If Senate Bill 492 does not pass there would be no money and if Senate Bill 492 did pass, there would be funding for House Bill 385 to provide mail renewal sendouts.

Executive Action of House Bill 385 was delayed until further notice.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
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SENATOR LARRY TVEIT, Chairman

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HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date 3/24/87

House Bill 385

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
<u>Chairman: Larry Tyrl</u>	✓		
<u>Vice Chairman: James Edgar Egan</u>	✓		
<u>Senator Hubert J. Abrams</u>	✓		
<u>Senator William Farrell</u>	✓		
<u>Senator Tom Hare</u>	✓		
<u>Senator Sam Huffman</u>	✓		
<u>Senator Ray Lybeck</u>	✓		
<u>Senator David Meyer</u>	✓		
<u>Senator Cecil Peeding</u>	✓		
<u>Senator Bob Williams</u>	✓		

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 26 19 87

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on Highways & Transportation

having had under consideration House Bill No. 385

third reading copy ( blue )  
color

REQUIRING MAIL REREGISTRATION OF LIGHT VEHICLES TO BE ALLOWED

Rep. Kadas (Senator Beck)

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 385

BE CONCURRED IN

~~DO NOT PASS~~

~~DO NOT PASS~~

Senator Twitt

Chairman.

DATE 3-24-87

COMMITTEE ON Highways + Transportation

VISITORS' REGISTER HB 385

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppos
Larry Majewski	Motor Vehicle Division	HB385	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)