

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Stang, on March 30, 1989, at 11:00 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Members Present: All with the exception of:

Members Excused: Rep. Harrington

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Paul Verdon, Researcher  
Claudia Johnson, Secretary

Announcements/Discussion: Chairman Stang introduced Larry Larsen, the new director of the Department of Highways.

Mr. Larsen stated he is a consulting engineer, graduated from the School of Mines in South Dakota and has been in Montana since 1962. He spoke of changes that are in the process and hoped to be able to speed up funding for the bills passed into law.

#### HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 792

#### Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Davis, House District 53, stated that HB 792 brings present law into compliance and clarifies that amateur radio operators' special license plates are in lieu of regular license plates. It corrects an oversight that changes the current provision that requires the amateur radio licensee to purchase, in addition to the regular numbered plates, the amateur call sign plate. The only basic change is it would now read "in lieu of the numbered license plates" and the appropriate changes made throughout the code. This bill had been brought to Legislature in 1962. There are 1700 amateur radio operators in the State of Montana.

#### Testifying Proponents and Who They Represent:

Bob Robinson, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice

#### Proponent Testimony:

Mr. Robinson stated that he worked with Rep. Davis on ways to make this bill work. It allows the operator to have a numbered plate the same as a personalized plate. The

operators will only have one plate instead of two. Mr. Robinson stated his support for HB 792.

Testifying Opponents and Who They Represent:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Questions From Committee Members: Chairman Stang asked Mr. Robinson if he felt that in making it the same as personalized plates, would it be fair to charge the same amount? Mr. Robinson stated there is more value than just history and that the people that have ham operator sets are able to do a service for the community in emergency situations.

Chairman Stang asked Mr. Robinson where the distribution of the fees would go? Mr. Robinson replied that it goes to the Motor Vehicle account that goes into the general fund.

Rep. Zook asked Rep. Davis if there were numbers involved on the license plates? Rep. Davis answered that there is always one number. There are 10 zones in the United States, each 1 digit, so they can identify where that operator is licensed.

Rep. Aafedt asked Rep. Davis what the difference was with this bill and the plates that are out there now? Rep. Davis replied that the one he has now is an FCC license. With the new bill there is only one license. Presently, he has two plates, his regular vehicle license plates, and his FCC plate that is bolted over the top of his regular plate.

Rep. Westlake asked Rep. Davis where he received the plates he has now and what is the cost? Rep. Davis replied that the plate costs around \$20, whatever the standard fee is for the vehicle it goes on. He pays taxes and purchases the licenses through the Motor Vehicle Registration office.

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Davis closed.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 792

Motion: Rep. Bachini moved to DO PASS for HB 792.

Discussion: None

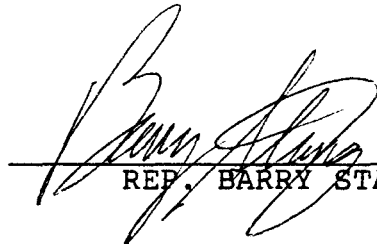
Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: Rep. Roth called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously to DO PASS.

There being no further business the Committee was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 11:25 a.m.



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REP. BARRY STANG, Chairman

BS/CJ

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## DAILY ROLL CALL

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

51st LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1989

Date March 30, 1989

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Chairman Stang, Barry "Spook"	✓		
Vice Chairman Linda Nelson	✓		
Rep. Bachini, Bob	✓		
Rep. Davis, Ervin	✓		
Rep. Harrington, Dan			✓
Rep. O'Connell, Helen	✓		
Rep. Steppler, Don	✓		
Rep. Westlake, Vernon	✓		
Rep. Aafedt, Ole	✓		
Rep. Campbell, Bud	✓		
Rep. Clark, Robert	✓		
Rep. Owens, Lum	✓		
Rep. Patterson, John	✓		
Rep. Roth, Rande	✓		
Rep. Zook, Tom	✓		

*Claudia Johnson*

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 30, 1989

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Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Highways and Transportation  
report that HOUSE BILL 792 (first reading copy -- white) do  
pass.

Signed: *Barry Stang*  
Barry Stang, Chairman



*The Big Sky Country*

EXHIBIT 1

DATE March 30, 19

HB 792

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE ERVIN DAVIS

DISTRICT 53

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March 30, 1989

### TESTIMONY

HB-792

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, for the record I am Ervin Davis, Representative from District #53, Lake County.

HB-792 is an act which merely brings the amateur radio licensing statute into line with all the current special license plate issuances.

HB-792 corrects an oversight that changes only the provision that currently requires the amateur radio licensee to purchase - in addition to the regular issued numbered plates - the amateur call sign plate.

Basically, the only change is the bill now would read - in lieu of the numbered license plates - and appropriate changes made.

I want to apologize to you for the lateness of this bill, but Peter Funk from the Attorney General's has been working with me for the past 6 weeks or so trying to figure out a way to get around or through the current statute without the introduction of a bill, but found out we'd just have to proceed in this manner. I appreciate your indulgence.

That's the bill in a nutshell. I'll answer any question I can regarding the bill and then close.

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ERVIN DAVIS

ED:bd