

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN TVEIT, on APRIL 17, 1989, at
12:30 p.m. in Room 410 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: SENATORS: Larry Tveit, Darryl Meyer,
Hubert Abrams, Bill Farrell, John Harp, Jerry Noble,
Cecil Weeding, Bob Williams

Members Excused: Senator Larry Stimatz

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lee Heiman, Legislative Council

Announcements/Discussion: CHAIRMAN TVEIT announced the
hearings on Senate Bill 473 and 474.

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 473

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: SENATOR J.D.
LYNCH, District 34 stated there are some people, who
for the past 15 years have enjoyed the confidentiality
of having regular-normal plates on their vehicles. It
has been pointed out by the Department of Justice, that
under law they ought not be permitted to have these
plates. The law specifically states they are only to
be used for law enforcement personnel, particularly
those who are involved in under cover operations. He
stated there is a legitimate need in giving the
Attorney General the right to allow some of these
plates for other than strictly law enforcing personnel.
For example, a person who is an elected official, judge
uses a car with normal plates won't need to worry about
vandalism. This bill will allow the Attorney General
the discretion as to who should be allowed those
plates.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group they Represent:

Peter Funk, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

None

Testimony:

PETER FUNK, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice explained their suggested amendment. SEE EXHIBIT 1. If you change the issuance of the plates, 44-4-205 should also be changed to reflect that they can be used for other than law enforcement investigations.

Questions From Committee Members: SENATOR WEEDING asked who is will be using the confidential plates outside the law enforcement.

SENATOR LYNCH informed the Committee for instance the Secretary of State, Mike Cooney who is allowed a state car.

SENATOR NOBLE asked if the Deputy Sheriff drives their own car, are they allowed now to have a confidential plate.

SENATOR LYNCH answered that under the strict interpretation only while he is under an investigation. These people should not have to be switching plates back and forth.

SENATOR FARRELL asked about the under cover drug enforcement agencies.

SENATOR LYNCH stated that even if this bill failed, those people would be under the investigative procedures. They would continue to get confidential plates no matter if this bill passes or not.

Closing by Sponsor: SENATOR LYNCH closed the hearing on Senate Bill 473.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 473

Discussion: None

Amendments and Votes: SENATOR HARP MOVED the AMENDMENT
(EXHIBIT 1) for SENATE BILL 473.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation and Vote: SENATOR NOBLE MOVED THAT SENATE
BILL 473 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 474

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SENATOR MAZUREK, District 23 stated this bill was at the request of the Cities of Helena, Great Falls, and Butte. Each of those cities have passed resolutions through their councils encouraging the Legislature to designate portion of U.S. State Highway 15 between Butte and Great Falls as a Maureen and Mike Mansfield Heritage Route. While this is meant to honor Senator Mansfield, but would at the same time help tourist and travel promotion in this state. He stated it would be a nice tribute to Mike Mansfield. This route, from border to border, is also designated the Veterans Memorial Highway and that it is not uncommon to overlap like that. The people would only be allowed to put up a plaque, you would not be allowed to sign it.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group they Represent:

Russ Ritter, Mayor of Helena

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

None

Testimony:

MAYOR RUSS RITTER of Helena stated that Mayor Ardith Aiken of Great Falls and Mayor Don Peoples of Butte are in support of Senate Bill 474. The Helena 89'rs have put together the idea. He informed the Committee that Senator Mansfield was born in Great Falls, and spent the first 10 years of his life their before moving to Butte and his wife, Maureen was born in Butte. It is ironic that it is also the Veterans Highway because Senator Mansfield has served in all three branches of the service. The Mansfield have agreed that they would be honored to have their name attached to it. The Highway Commission gave their blessings and suggested that the next step be to come before the Legislature.

Questions From Committee Members: SENATOR TVEIT asked if this is a commemorative thing or if signs will need to be put up.

MAYOR RUSS RITTER stated that signs are illegal according to Federal Statutes but the City of Butte may put up some type of sign and Great Falls may do that also. He stated that Helena, being in the middle may not have a necessary place in that, but if appropriate the City of Helena would use whatever they have for a commemorative sign and it would also be in maps.

Closing by Sponsor: SENATOR MAZUREK closed the hearing on Senate Bill 474.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 474

Discussion: None

Amendments and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: SENATOR WEEDING MOVED THAT SENATE BILL 474 DO PASS.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 1:00 p.m.



SENATOR LARRY TVEIT, Chairman

LT/pb

senmin.417

ROLL CALL

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE 4-17-

1989

51st
LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
CHAIRMAN TVEIT	✓		
VICE CHAIRMAN MEYER	✓		
SENATOR ABRAMS	✓		
SENATOR FARRELL	✓		
SENATOR WEEDING	✓		
SENATOR NOBLE	✓		
SENATOR STIMATZ			✓
SENATOR HARP	✓		
SENATOR WILLIAMS	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 17, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Highways and Transportation, having had under consideration SB 473 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SB 473 be amended and as so amended do pass:

1. Title, line 7.
Strike: "SECTION"
Insert: "SECTIONS"
Following: "44-4-201"
Insert: "AND 44-4-205,"

2. Page 1.
Following: line 24
Insert: "Section 2. Section 44-4-205, MCA, is amended to read:
"44-4-205. Use of confidential plates and registrations.
(1) Such license plates and registrations may be displayed and used only during and in the furtherance of official law enforcement investigations or for purposes as authorized in 44-4-201(2).
(2) Such confidential plates and certificates of registration may be used outside the state by federal agencies and state agencies upon application to the attorney general."
Renumber: subsequent section

AND AS AMENDED DO PASS

Signed: *Larry J. Tveit*
Larry J. Tveit, Chairman

4/17/89
2:05 p.m.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 17, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Highways and Transportation, having had under consideration SB 474 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SB 474 do pass.

DO PASS

Signed: _____

Larry J. Tveit

Larry J. Tveit, Chairman

*4/17/89
2:35
P.M.*

Amendments to Senate Bill No. 473
First Reading Copy

For the Committee on Highways and Transportation

Prepared by Lee Heiman
April 17, 1989

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