

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN SHIELL ANDERSON, on January 11, 1995,
at 3:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Shiell Anderson, Chairman (R)
Rep. Rick Jore, Vice Chairman (Majority) (R)
Rep. Patrick G. Galvin, Vice Chairman (Minority) (D)
Rep. Joe Barnett (R)
Rep. Matt Brainard (R)
Rep. Robert C. Clark (R)
Rep. Charles R. Devaney (R)
Rep. Marian W. Hanson (R)
Rep. Don Larson (D)
Rep. Rod Marshall (R)
Rep. Linda McCulloch (D)
Rep. Daniel W. McGee (R)
Rep. Jeanette S. McKee (R)
Rep. William M. "Bill" Ryan (D)
Rep. Dore Schwinden (D)
Rep. Roger Somerville (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)
Rep. Jack Wells (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Dore Schwinden

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Dave Bohyer, Legislative Council
Kim Greenough, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: HB 97
Executive Action: HB 48 Do Pass
HB 97 Do Pass

HEARING ON HB 97

{Tape: 1; Side: 1; Approx. Counter: 001; Comments:None.}

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. RED MENAHAN, House District 57, Anaconda, said that HB 97 would allow veterans to get personalized veterans license plates. This would allow them to have their military insignia and also have their personalization after it. This bill was not at the legislature last session. This bill would also increase the funding for the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Fort Harrison.

Proponents' Testimony:

REP. BOB PAVLOVICH, House District 37, Butte, recommends a Do Pass on HB 97.

Jim Jacobson, Administrator, Montana Veterans Affairs Division, said that it is his responsibility to provide veterans support across the State of Montana. He also stated he was responsible for the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Fort Harrison and the primary funding for the cemetery comes from the sale of veterans' license plates. Last fiscal year The State sold 9,236 veterans plates. When a veteran buys a license plate there is an additional \$10.00 charge, \$6.00 of that goes to the cemetery and \$4.00 is retained by the county and the state for administrative costs. Upon renewal The State does get the whole \$10.00 for the cemetery costs. He also stated that he has had several veterans come to him and ask for personalized veterans plates.

Hal Manson, American Legion of Montana, said that they solicit a lot of money for all of the veterans' organizations. He also stated that he has several veterans say they would purchase the veterans plates if they were able to have them personalized, otherwise they would not purchase them.

Dean Roberts, Administrator, State of Montana Motor Vehicles Division, said that this would not create a new class of license plates. There is already a veterans' license plate and this bill would allow the veterans to personalize it. The fiscal impact would bring in more revenue for the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery and the State of Montana. The estimated fiscal impact would generate an additional \$17,100.00 for the general fund for the first fiscal year and \$11,350.00 for the second year. It would generate \$16,000.00 for the cemetery fund in fiscal year 1996. It would also generate \$4550.00 for the county revenues in fiscal year 1996.

REP. PAT GALVIN, House District 48, Great Falls, stated he supports HB 97.

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Informational Testimony:

None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. JACK WELLS asked if it costs \$10.00 extra to receive a personalized plate. Dean Roberts replied that it costs \$25.00 for the first time you purchase a personalized plate. Of that \$25.00; \$20.00 goes to the state and \$5.00 goes to the county. Every year after you have the personalized plate it costs \$10.00. Of that \$10.00; \$5.00 goes to the state and \$5.00 goes to the county. REP. WELLS asked if it would be the same fee for the personalized veterans' license plates. Mr. Roberts replied yes.

Closing by Sponsor: REP. RED MENAHAN closed.

Note:

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON stated that REP. DICK SIMPKINS the sponsor of HB 86 went home ill and that he would reschedule the bill for Friday, January 13, 1995.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 48

Motion: REP. DON LARSON MOVED HB 48 DO PASS.

Discussion: REP. MATT BRAINARD said that HB 48 would subject church groups, Hutterites, etc. to random checks and he doesn't agree with that.

REP. JACK WELLS stated he agrees with REP. MATT BRAINARD. He also said he is not opposed to safety, but he feels this is an intrusion to the owners of these vehicles.

REP. MATT BRAINARD said that the current accident statistics are due to having better interstates rather than having these safety checks.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON said he agrees with REP. MATT BRAINARD and REP. JACK WELLS. He also stated that "we do get the federal matching money and if we do not like the federal law we should not take their money. By not conforming our state law to federal law is the wrong approach and if we don't care for the law we should change it."

REP. DON LARSON stated that the federal matching money helps fund our highway patrol officers, because they can allocate their time to checking these vehicles. He also stated that we need to ask ourselves if we want to use federal dollars or not. HB 48 deals with a safety issue and the State has the responsibility to make our highways and the vehicles that travel on them safe.

REP. ROD MARSHALL asked if he could have **REP. BOB CLARK'S** opinion on the bill.

REP. BOB CLARK stated that the only problem he has with the bill is that it gives the agency rule-making authority. He also stated that this bill is adding vehicles to the ones that are already being checked. He said that every truck he stopped he did, at least, a short-form inspection on. This bill will just add these 15+ passenger vehicles to the current law.

REP. ROD MARSHALL asked if he checked every truck he stopped. **REP. BOB CLARK** replied that he did and this bill would give the Highway Patrol the authority to stop these vehicles.

REP. DAN MCGEE asked **REP. BOB CLARK** if he would stop these particular vehicles. **REP. BOB CLARK** replied that in his experience the buses he has seen are in good shape and well cared for. This will give the highway patrol the authority to check these vehicles as they already check semi-trucks.

REP. DAN MCGEE asked how will the word of this bill get out to the people who own these vehicles. **REP. BOB CLARK** stated that the media will be used.

REP. ROGER SOMERVILLE stated that safety is a very important issue and it is the responsibility of the owners of these vehicles to keep these vehicles in good shape. He also stated he does not see anything wrong with this bill.

Motion/Vote: **REP. MARIAN HANSON** MOVED HB 48 DO PASS. The question was called. Motion CARRIED 15-3 with **REP. RICK JORE**, **REP. JACK WELLS**, **REP. MATT BRAINARD** voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 97

Motion: **REP. DAN MCGEE** MOVED HB 97 DO PASS.

Discussion: **REP. BOB CLARK** asked if Dean Roberts or anyone from the Department of Transportation testified on the bill. **The Committee** responded yes. **REP. BOB CLARK** asked what Mr. Roberts' opinion was on the bill. **The Committee** responded that Mr. Roberts spoke in favor of the bill.

HOUSE HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 11, 1995

Page 5 of 6

REP. BOB CLARK stated that the last session the Department of Transportation came to the Highways and Transportation Committee and requested that we do not pass anymore of these specialized license plates. Last session we turned down every request for specialized license plates. **REP. DON LARSON** responded that personalized license plates and we have veterans' license plates. This would be a personalized veterans' license plate. He also stated that Dean Roberts testified that there was no additional expense for the Department of Motor Vehicles and he also stated that it was not a new class of license plates.

REP. SHIELL ANDERSON stated that the only difference this bill would make is that they have numbers on them now and with this bill letters are allowed to make it more personalized.

REP. JACK WELLS asked if there were a 108 different license plates in the state of Montana. **REP. BOB CLARK** stated that there were 118 different types of plates that the State of Montana makes right now. From the special mobile plates to the Pearl Harbor Survivor plates etc. **REP. DON LARSON** stated we are the highest in the nation in kinds of license plates available.

Motion/Vote: **REP. MARIAN HANSON** MOVED HB 97 DO PASS. Motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

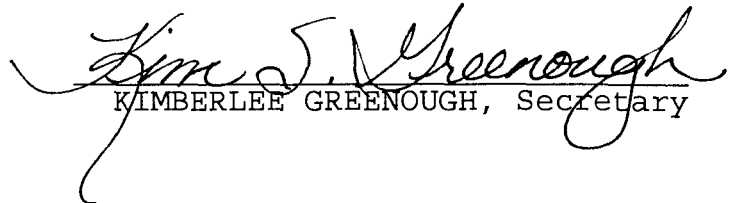
ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:33 p.m.

{Tape: 1; Side: 1; Approx. Counter: 822; Comments: none.}



REP. SHIELL ANDERSON, Chairman



KIMBERLEE GREENOUGH, Secretary

SA/ksg

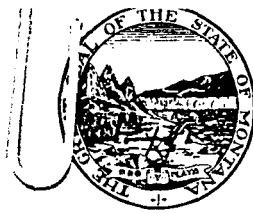
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Highways

ROLL CALL

DATE 1-11-95

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Shiell Anderson, Chairman	✓		
Rep. Rick Jore, Vice Chairman, Majority	✓		
Rep. Pat Galvin, Vice Chairman, Minority	✓		
Rep. Joe Barnett	✓		
Rep. Matt Brainard	✓		
Rep. Bob Clark	✓		
Rep. Charles Devaney	✓		
Rep. Marian Hanson	✓		
Rep. Don Larson	✓		
Rep. Rod Marshall	✓		
Rep. Linda McCulloch	✓		
Rep. Daniel McGee	✓		
Rep. Jeanette McKee	✓		
Rep. Bill Ryan	✓		
Rep. Dore Schwinden			✓
Rep. Roger Somerville	✓		
Rep. Joe Tropila	✓		
Rep. Jack Wells	✓		



HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 11, 1995

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on **Highways and Transportation** report that **House Bill 97** (first reading copy -- white) **do pass**.

Signed: Shiell W. Anderson
Shiell Anderson, Chair

Committee Vote:
Yes 18, No 0.

091623SC.Hbk



HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 11, 1995

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on **Highways and Transportation** report that **House Bill 48** (first reading copy -- white) do pass.

Signed: Shiell W. Anderson
Shiell Anderson, Chair

Committee Vote:

Yes 15, No 3. Rep. Jore, Rep. Wells, Rep. Braumard 091619SC.Hbk



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1/11/95

Rep. Galvin has my
proxy on all votes before the
House Highway & Transportation
Committee this day.

Dore Schuler

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 97 - HB 86

DATE 1-11-95 SPONSOR(S) Menchen, Simkins

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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	BILL	OPPOSE	SUPPORT
DAVE BROWN	United Veterans Council	97		✓
LARRY BROWN	Ag. Pres. Assoc.			
DEAN ROBERTS		97		✓
DOVE GALT	DOT	86	✓	
TOP CARLSON	HL - 37			X
DICK BAUMBERGER	HB DAV	97		✓
KEE MANSON	America Legion	97		X
JOHN JACOBSON	NAT VET AFFAIRS DIV	97		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.