

**2015 SENATE TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 2248**

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Lewis and Clark Room, State Capitol

**SB 2248**

1/30/2015

Recording job number 22873

☐ Subcommittee

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

To amend and reenact section 39-10-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the lights displayed by tow trucks

**Minutes:**

Attachments: 1

**Chairman Oehlke** opened the hearing on SB 2248, all committee members were present.

**Vice Chairman Casper** this bill will allow tow truck operators to have a white and amber light, instead of just amber, on their trucks. This would allow trucks to be seen better.

**Senator Rust** did you talk to the Department of Transportation, the Highway Department, would there be any reason why they would think that a white light would not be good?

**Vice Chairman Casper:** I talked to a law enforcement officer, who didn't seem to have any objections.

**Vice Chairman Casper:** **Senator Sinner** blue and red are used by law enforcement, that is why we chose white.

**Bill Kalanek**, North Dakota Towing Association, in support of this bill, attachment #1, this will make working conditions safer by differentiating tow trucks from law enforcement and emergency service vehicles. Will make people slow down.

No additional testimony in support, opposition or neutral. Chairman Oehlke closed the hearing.

**Senator Rust moved: do pass**

**Vice Chairman Casper seconded the motion**

No further discussion

**Roll call vote was taken: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0**

**Carrier: Senator Rust**

**2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
SB BILL NO. 2248**

Senate TRANSPORTATION Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment  
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Senator Rust Seconded By Vice Chairman Casper

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Oehlke	X		Senator Axness	X	
Vice Chairman Casper	X		Senator Sinner	X	
Senator Campbell	X				
Senator Rust	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Rust

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2248: Transportation Committee (Sen. Oehlke, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS**  
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2248 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2015 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 2248**

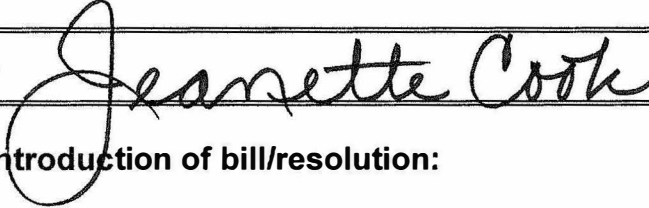
# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2248  
3/19/2015  
#25115

☐ Subcommittee  
Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to the lights displayed by tow trucks.

## Minutes:

Attachment #1

**Chairman Dan Ruby** opened the hearing on SB 2248.

**Bill Kalanek, North Dakota Towing Association**, introduced SB 2248 and provided written testimony. See attachment #1.

**Vice Chairman Lisa Meier:** In other states do they have amber and white lights on their tow trucks?

**Bill Kalanek:** The distinctions vary some, but typically it is amber and white.

**Vice Chairman Lisa Meier:** Would this bill make North Dakota adjacent to what other states are doing with their tow trucks?

**Bill Kalanek:** That is my understanding. We also worked closely with the North Dakota Highway Patrol, and this was the suggestion that they made. They thought that this was the most consistent and the best route to go.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** What is the significance of the white?

**Bill Kalanek:** I think that if you get the variation, motorists are more likely to slow down than if the lights are just spinning amber. This was the best option that we were offered.

**Representative Gary Sukut:** Are there two lights or one light that is half white and half amber?

**Bill Kalanek:** It doesn't designate in the law how the lights are to be presented, but it would be in an alternating fashion that the lights would operate.

**Representative Gary Sukut:** Do you know what they cost?

**Bill Kalanek:** I would have to defer to a member of the association. I could get some information for you.

**Representative Gary Sukut:** Are the tow truck drivers comfortable with this?

**Bill Kalanek:** The association membership was unanimous in their desire to do this.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** This doesn't allow either/or. It says that they have to use both?

**Bill Kalanek:** Correct.

There was no further support for SB 2248.  
There was no testimony in opposition to SB 2248.  
There was no neutral testimony on SB 2248.

The hearing was closed on SB 2248.

**Vice Chairman Lisa Meier moved a DO PASS on SB 2248.**  
**Rep. Mark Owens seconded the motion.**

**A roll call vote was taken on SB 2248: Yea 10 Nay 0 Absent 4**  
**The motion carried.**

**Vice Chairman Lisa Meier will carry SB 2248.**

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2248**

House Transportation Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment  
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Vice Chairman Lisa Meier Seconded By Rep. Mark Owens

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Ruby	X		Rep. Delmore	X	
Vice Chairman Meier	X		Rep. Hanson	X	
Rep. Rick Becker	X		Rep. Nelson	X	
Rep. Frantzvog	A				
Rep. Hawken	A				
Rep. Olson	A				
Rep. Owens	X				
Rep. Paur	X				
Rep. Schatz	X				
Rep. Sukut	X				
Rep. Weisz	A				

Total (Yes) 10 No 0

Absent 4

Floor Assignment Vice Chairman Lisa Meier

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2248: Transportation Committee (Rep. Ruby, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS**  
(10 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2248 was placed on the  
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**2015 TESTIMONY**

**SB 2248**

#1

1-1

Testimony on HB 2248  
Bill Kalanek  
North Dakota Towing Association  
Senate Transportation Committee  
January 30, 2015

Good Morning Chairman Oehlke and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Bill Kalanek, here today representing the members of the North Dakota Towing Association.

On behalf of our members I'd like to voice support for Senate Bill 2248. Senate Bill 2248 seeks to make working conditions for tow truck drivers operating on our roads around the state safer by allowing a change in the signal lights used by towing companies.

According to statistics provided to me by the association, in the year 2014, 68 tow truck drivers were killed nationwide by collisions on the roadways when performing their work. This number exceeds the number of law enforcement and other emergency responders killed by collisions while assisting the public on our roads. It is the associations' position that passage of this bill is a prudent attempt to ensure our members are as safe as they can be while working to clear accidents and remove abandoned vehicles from the roads.

The bill you have before you would simply change the signal light designation for tow trucks in statute from amber to a combination of white and amber. This change was discussed at length by the association and was brought before the ND Highway Patrol for their consideration. The ND Highway Patrol's suggestion was to change to the proposed white and amber configuration in order to differentiate tow trucks from other service vehicles that might be operating on the roadways.

I respectfully request that the committee give HB 2248 a "Do Pass" recommendation and provide a greater degree of safety to the industry as they do their job helping the people of North Dakota.

Thank you.

SB 2248  
3-19-15  
#1

Testimony on ~~SB~~ 2248  
Bill Kalanek  
North Dakota Towing Association  
House Transportation Committee  
March 19, 2015

Good Morning Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee, my name is Bill Kalanek, here today representing the members of the North Dakota Towing Association.

On behalf of our members I'd like to voice support for Senate Bill 2248. Senate Bill 2248 seeks to make working conditions for tow truck drivers operating on our roads around the state safer by allowing a change in the signal lights used by towing companies.

According to statistics provided to me by the association, in the year 2014, 68 tow truck drivers were killed nationwide by collisions on the roadways when performing their work. This number exceeds the number of law enforcement and other emergency responders killed by collisions while assisting the public on our roads. It is the association's position that passage of this bill is a prudent attempt to ensure our members are as safe as they can be while working to clear accidents and remove abandoned vehicles from the roads.

The bill you have before you would simply change the signal light designation for tow trucks in statute from amber to a combination of white and amber. This change was discussed at length by the association and was brought before the ND Highway Patrol for their consideration. The ND Highway Patrol's suggestion was to change to the proposed white and amber configuration in order to differentiate tow trucks from other service vehicles that might be operating on the roadways.

I respectfully request that the committee give HB 2248 a "Do Pass" recommendation and provide a greater degree of safety to the industry as they do their job helping the people of North Dakota.

Thank you.