

1999 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1352

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1352

House Transportation Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 21, 1999

machine error - no tape

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		41.7-42.0
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Laura Ken</i>			

Minutes:

CHAIRMAN KEISER OPENED THE HEARING ON HB 1352; A BILL RELATING TO NUMBER PLATES FURNISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Due to the timing of the bill, no testimony was available. The bill was rescheduled to February 4th.

CHAIRMAN KEISER CLOSED THE HEARING ON HB 1352.

February 4, 1999

CHAIRMAN KEISER REOPENED THE HEARING ON HB 1352.

REP. KEMPENICH introduced HB 1352. He said that it simply takes the front license plate off of cars and pickup trucks. One official plate will remain on the back, and in his opinion you can do whatever on the front plate.

Page 2

House Transportation Committee

Bill/Resolution Number Hb 1352

Hearing Date February 4, 1999

REP. BELTER questioned semi trucks for farm use. Do they have two plates or one?

REP. KEMPENICH said that they could amend it so that it says one plate for trucks as well.

REP. MICKELSON asked if people already do this, are they violating a statute in place?

DICK PECK, Peace Officers Association, testified in opposition to HB 1352. He said that the front plate is good for reflective purposes among other things. He had testimony way back to the Jacob Wetterling case where it was clearly important to have front plates. The Law Enforcement asks for opposition to the bill.

JOHN GRASL, ND Highway Patrol, testified in opposition to HB 1352. He said that many violations are reported, including passing school buses by their front plate. He also explained that the fiscal note claims to save \$780,000. Considering that each plate has a life of 10 years and that it is based on 780,000 licenses issued in North Dakota - it evens out to one cent per month savings for ND. He also noted the good of the reflectors.

REP. LEMIEUX questioned the front plate being unreadable. Is there a current law against that.

JOHN said that warnings are given and that it is illegal.

CHAIRMAN KEISER CLOSED THE HEARING ON HB 1352.

COMMITTEE ACTION

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE.

REP. SVEEN moved a DO NOT PASS. REP. MAHONEY seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ROLL CALL - 8 YEA, 6 NAE, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

FLOOR ASSIGNMENT - REP. SVEEN.

FISCAL NOTE

(Return original and 10 copies)

Resolution No.: HB 1352 Amendment to: _____

Requested by Legislative Council Date of Request: 1-15-99

1. Please estimate the fiscal impact (in dollar amounts) of the above measure for state general or special funds, counties, cities, and school districts. .

Narrative:

If there is a general issuance of new license plates in the next biennium, the estimated savings from passage of this bill would be \$788,000. If there is no general issuance of new plates during the next biennium, this bill will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Transportation.

2. State fiscal effect in dollar amounts:

	1997-99 Biennium		1999-2001 Biennium		2001-03 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				\$0 to \$496,440		
Expenditures				\$0 to (\$788,000)		

3. What, if any, is the effect of this measure on the budget for your agency or department:

For rest of 1997-99 biennium: None

b. For the 1999-2001 biennium: Could reduce the budget request by \$788,000

c. For the 2001-03 biennium: None

4. County, city, and school district fiscal effect in dollar amounts:

1997-99 Biennium			1999-2001 Biennium			2001-03 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
			\$0 to \$181,240	\$0 to \$110,320				

Signed: Keith Kiser

Typed Name: Keith Kiser, Motor Vehicle Director
 Department: Department of Transportation
 Phone Number: 328-2725
 Date Prepared: 1-19-99

Date: 2/4/99
Roll Call Vote #:

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1352

House Transportation Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO NOT PASS

Motion Made By REP SVEEN Seconded By REP MAHONEY

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Representative Keiser, Chair	✓		Representative Thorpe		✓
Representative Mickelson, V. Ch.	✓				
Representative Belter	✓				
Representative Jensen	✓				
Representative Kelsch					
Representative Kempenich		✓			
Representative Price	✓				
Representative Sveen	✓				
Representative Weisz		✓			
Representative Grumbo		✓			
Representative Lemieux		✓			
Representative Mahoney	✓				
Representative Meyer		✓			
Representative Schmidt	✓				

Total (Yes) 8 No 6

Absent 1

Floor Assignment REP SVEEN

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 4, 1999 4:25 p.m.

Module No: HR-23-1960
Carrier: Sveen
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1352: Transportation Committee (Rep. Keiser, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (8 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1352 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

HB 1352

1352

RESOLUTION

CONCERNING THE BENEFIT OF FRONT AND REAR LICENSE PLATES

Whereas, ninety eight percent of the 86,808 miles of the public roads and streets in the State of North Dakota are classified as rural roads which are patrolled primarily by law enforcement officers who are members of the North Dakota Sheriffs and Deputies Association; and,

Whereas, seventy five percent of all vehicle travel in North Dakota is on rural roads where the natural lower light and illumination levels in those areas make it more difficult to see obstacles such as parked, abandoned, or disabled vehicles in the roadway or along the side of the road; and,

Whereas, Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs frequently are required to seek and find citizens who occupy disabled vehicles on the roads in North Dakota, often in darkness and under difficult weather-induced conditions including, heavy rain, snow and blizzards, the existence of both front and rear license plates enhances the sighting of these vehicles and rescuing of the citizens; and,

Whereas, the difficulty of observing a parked or moving vehicle coming toward or in front of a driver on a rural road is exacerbated by these same weather situations and conditions common to the State of North Dakota, while the difficulty is mitigated by fully-reflective front and rear license plates that indicate the presence of another vehicle even under conditions of poor visibility; and,

Whereas, the safety of Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs in performance of their duties is a primary concern of law enforcement officers and citizens, the two-plate system has massive support as demonstrated by 75% of officers surveyed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police around the country who stated a front plate is absolutely essential or very important to officer safety; and 93% stated two plates best serve their needs; and,

Whereas, front and rear, fully reflective license plates are an efficient and simple system that allows law enforcement officers and citizens to see and identify motor vehicles quickly and accurately;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the North Dakota Sheriffs and Deputies Association reaffirms its long-standing support for both front and rear, fully reflective license plates to provide law enforcement officers with a cost-effective tool that is vital to the continued safety and well being of the citizens of the State and of others who travel the roads in North Dakota.

This resolution adopted by the unanimous vote of the North Dakota Sheriffs and Deputies Association January 21, 1999.

Chuck Gates
Chuck Gates, President
North Dakota Sheriffs and Deputies Association