

Assembly

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 8, 1973

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Present: Messrs: Glover, May, Howard, Dreyer, Jacobsen, Smalley, Bickerstaff

Absent: None:

Guest Speakers: Mr. Walley Roanhaus, Aging Services
Assemblyman Eileen Brookman
Ms. Shirlee Wedon, P.T.A.
Mr. Harvey Dondero, Clark County School District
Mr. Roy Sebbas, Retired Sr. Volunteer Program, Reno
Mr. Robert Guinn, Nevada Motor Transport Association,
and Nevada Franchised Auto Dealers Association
Mr. Jim Wood, California-Nevada Golden Transit Co.
Mr. Stan Lloyd L.T.R. Stage Lines
Mr. Frank Mikulich, L.T.R. Stage Lines
Mr. George Barnes, YMCA - Reno
Mr. John Flanders, Flanders Cycle and Marine
Mr. William R. Norris, Nevada Motorcycle Association
Mr. Dave Toms
Mr. John Borda, Motor Vehicle Department
Mr. Jay Wynkoop, Nevada Motorcycle Association
Mr. James Lambert, Nevada Highway Patrol
Mr. Virgil Anderson, American Automobile Assn.
Mr. Andrew Barbano, Nevada Franchised Motorcycle Assn.
Mr. Howard Hill, Motor Vehicle Department

Chairman Glover called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and stated the first order of business to be A.B. 283. He said that due to a shortage of time, the testimony on each bill to be discussed should be limited to twenty minutes.

The first speaker on A.B. 283, was Mr. Wally Roanhaus, Division of Aging Services. He stated that he would like to see the bill passed, if only for the sake of having transportation for the aged. He said the buses would only be used for this purpose when not in use by those who owned them. Payment would be made for use by non-profit organization and used only for the good of the people.

The next speaker was Mrs. Eileen Brookman, Assemblyman. She said that since she was the sponsor of the bill, that she was, of course, here to speak in favor of passage. She stated that although she is an assemblyman, she was speaking as a representative for the Council of the Aged for the State of Nevada. She explained that although Las Vegas and Reno have a commercial carrier system, many of the rural areas do not, and in these rural areas the elderly people have no means of transportation. Therefore, she saw no reason why, since school buses are not used during the summer months, they could not be used for the benefit of the aged. The use of the buses would be paid for at the same rate as the school systems pay for the buses, drivers' fee, etc.

The next speaker was Shirlee Wedon, P.T.A. She stated that she was in favor of the bill and urged the Committee to pass the bill.

Mr. Harvey Dondero who represented the Clark County School District was the next speaker on A.B. 283. He began by saying that he was concerned about the non-profit organization clause of the bill. He pointed out that all churches, young people's organizations, school groups, fraternal organizations and many others are also considered non-profit. Under this bill, all of the groups would be allowed to rent the buses. They would be in constant demand, and someone would have to make the decisions as to which applicants would receive use of the buses. He added that maintenance costs would be very high, and since they are school buses, he wants to have the leasing of these buses restricted to the young people for their functions. He said school buses would be placed in competition with commercial lines and would also be getting too much mileage. Mr. Dondero said that a year-round school program is in the testing in Clark County and if it goes into effect, the buses would be needed all year.

A representative of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Reno, Mr. Roy Sebbas, spoke in favor of the bill. He told of the activities of his group and explained what the volunteers do for their community. He said without this transportation, these people would not be able to continue to be active in their participation.

Mr. Robert Guinn, Nevada Motor Transport and Nevada Franchised Automobile Dealers Associations explained his feelings and introduced three people who would give testimony against the bill. The first was Mr. Jim Wood, California-Nevada Golden Transit Company. He spoke on the profits, or lack of profits, which would be a result of the passage of the bill, due to the competition of the school buses. He said commercial carriers are now available to senior citizens at a lower rate and at times are made available free of charge for special functions. Mr. Stan Lloyd, L.T.R., said the City Bus System has just put in two new lines in Reno for senior citizens. These runs go past all hospitals, doctors' offices, stores, and anywhere these senior citizens would want to go. These elderly people are allowed to purchase a six month ticket, which gives them a 40% cut in fares, from 35¢ to 25¢ per trip. Mr. Frank Mikulich, L.T.R., stated frankly that the passage of this bill would put all common carriers out of business. Commercial carriers are taxed heavily and would have to charge more to make up for losses incurred by loss of use by this type of passenger.

Mr. George Barnes who represented the YMCA in Reno spoke in favor of A.B. 283. He said that his groups often liked to take trips and outings, and have to rent buses to do this. Many times the bus companies do not have any buses available. He said the group would like to rent one of these buses when the commercial ones were not available.

Chairman Glover said that time was growing short and therefore testimony on A.B. 283 would now be closed. He then asked for speakers on A.B. 41.

Mr. Andrew Barbano, Director of the Nevada Franchised Motorcycle Association, recommended that the Committee lower the age at which one could obtain a motorcycle license from 16 to 15. He said that the reason for the reduction in accidents involving motorcycles is that there are a fewer number of motorcycles on the road, not because of the wearing of helmets. He then distributed statistics on the number of bikes sold and registered.

Ms. Shirlee Wedon, P.T.A., stated that her group wanted a motorcycle training program in the schools, as they must have training before they can license drivers'.

Mr. Howard Hill, Motor Vehicle Department, said he would like to submit some changes in the wording of the bill.

Mr. John Flanders made a few comments on A.B. 41, as concerned with his children. He said that he would like his children to have traffic experience before learning to drive a car.

Mr. Glover stated that testimony on A.B. 41 was now closed and asked if there was any testimony on A.B. 292.

Mr. William R. Norris, Nevada Motorcycle Association, was the first speaker on A.B. 292. He stated that the Association would like to see the helmet laws abolished. He had many interesting figures and statistics, one of which showed a 128% increase in registration of motorcycles, and only a 48% increase in injuries and fatalities. He also said that 47% of all fatalities occurred because of an impact with a car. Only 30% occurred on motorcycles, and of that 30%, 20% were solitary riders.

Mr. Dave Toms made a statement concerning a study which had been conducted on helmets. He said that it had been proved that helmets could not withstand an impact of more than 15 mph. He added that helmets also reduce vision and hearing and this might be a possible cause for some accidents. He urged passage of the bill due to the fact that helmets will not prevent accidents, only training will do this.

Mr. John Borda, Department of Motor Vehicles, presented some statistics showing a decrease in deaths since the helmet laws have been in force. He added that Nevada might possibly lose federal funds if the bill was passed.

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Mr. Jay Wynkoop, Nevada Motorcycle Association, spoke in favor of better training and stricter regulations. He said this would be one way to reduce deaths. He also felt that automobile drivers should have more public awareness concerning motorcycles.

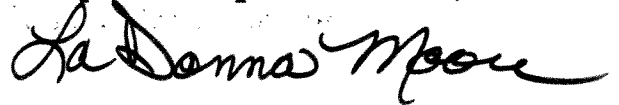
Mr. James Lambert, Nevada Highway Patrol, said that his officers on motorcycles had not complained of sight or hearing impairments. A heated debate followed, wherein many of the motorcycle riders disputed Mr. Lambert's statement.

Mr. Virgil Anderson of the Nevada Automobile Association was the last speaker on A.B. 292. He explained that if passed, this bill would eliminate the right of motorcycle riders to sue for head injuries while not wearing a helmet.

Mr. Glover stated that testimony would now end, due to a lack of more time. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Upon adjournment Mr. Firth submitted a statement which he requested be officially entered into the minutes. (See Attachment I)

Respectfully submitted,



LA DONNA MOORE
Assembly Attache

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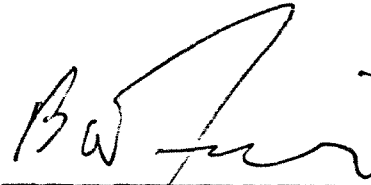
AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATIONDate March 8, 1973 Time 4:00 Room 336

<u>Bills or Resolutions to be considered</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Counsel requested*</u>
A.B. 41	Makes changes in licensing provisions for motorcycles and requirement of having both hands on handlebars.	
A.B. 283	Permits rental of school buses to nonprofit groups.	
A.B. 292	Amends provisions relating to motorcycle equipment and operators' licenses.	

ASSEMBLY BILL NUMBER 292

THE NEVADA MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION stands immovably for the principle that there is no power to compel the citizens, unless it be to compel all of the citizens equally - a tax such as a sales tax from which there are no exemptions may be made compulsory, but nothing more.

The attempt to coerce the citizens becomes even more clearly criminal when it is directed at a minority of persons who do not enjoy the privilege of voting; 486.231 amended by A. B. 292 would be incontrovertibly an act devoid of the consent of the people.



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