

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - MINUTES
Thursday, January 27, 1977
2:45 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Hayes Mr. May
 Mr. Demers Mr. Jacobsen
 Mr. Glover Mrs. Westall
 Mr. Harmon

Guests Present:

Assemblyman Nash Sena
Assemblyman Robert E. Robinson
Assemblyman Darrell Dreyer
Mr. Gene Phelps, Highway Department
Mr. Robert F. Guinn, Nev. Motor Transport Assoc.
Ms. Majorie Robinson
Mr. B. S. Smith, AAA
V. L. Fletcher, Department of Motor Vehicles
Mr. Howard Hill, Department of Motor Vehicles
Mr. Bart Jacka, L.V. Ass't Sheriff
Mr. Darrell Capurro, Transport Association
Mr. John Ciardella, Department of Motor Vehicles

The meeting was convened by Chairman Hayes at 2:45 P.m.

AB 21. Assemblyman Robinson, the sponsor of the measure was the first to speak. This bill is very close to the same bill dealing with the metric system introduced in the last session of the Legislature which died in Committee because of opposition from the Highway Department. They did not feel they could handle the changes which would be necessarily required by that bill. In section 3 of the bill is a new portion that requires every new and replacement guide post, sign board, road marker, highway information and descriptive sign put up by the Department containing information on distances, be expressed in characters of equal size and lettering, the distance in miles and kilometers.

One part of the bill that should be eliminated is replacement of guide posts, which are for the benefit of highway maintenance crews and highway patrol. The purpose of the bill is for information to highway users. Mr. Robinson would like to delete "guide posts" on line 21, and on line 22, insert after "descriptive signs put up" words to the effect that it was for the benefit of the driver.

Chairman Hayes asked for clarification.

Mr. Robinson then stated "On line 21 delete the words guide post and leave 'sign board', delete road marker, and leave 'highway sign, informative sign, and descriptive sign put up' and insert after 'up' the words 'for the benefit of the driver pursuant to this section'. Page 2, line 2, after 'miles and kilometers' take out the period and insert 'and in yards, feet and meters where applicable (period)'

The bill will not cost the State anything because it says "every new and replacement sign". The State Board of Education, so states a recent newspaper article has mandated the entire education system in the State of Nevada be metricized by 1980. See "EXHIBIT A".

When the entire road and highway system in the United States is in the metric system, someone is going to have to pay for the changing of all the signs. When the change comes, Nevada will be well on its way to being converted and will not be facing an expensive project of changing signs. It makes good sense to look a little forward.

Mr. Gene Phelps, representing the Highway Department opposed the bill. They have the same objections and problems they had last session when they opposed it. The Federal Highway Administration currently will not permit kilometer signs to be placed on highways of the primary system except for a very limited way for demonstration purposes. Secondly, even if the Federal Highway Administration would permit the installation of the signs they would not participate in the cost. If the program is launched currently it will all be done with State money. Thirdly, if this is done now, even by phase process, it would cost the State two million dollars. 18,000 signs are involved and their sign shop is not equipped to handle the conversion at this time. When the Federal Highway Administration is prepared to make the conversion, they will participate in the cost.

The description in the new section, item 3, does not conform to the current manual on uniform traffic control devices. In order to make it conform, it would require substantially different terminology.

Mr. Demers asked about making this enabling legislation. Add words to the effect that in the event the Federal Highway Administration does do whatever it has to do, they would then be authorized to go ahead with this program.

Mr. Phelps had no objection to that. He suggested that in line 21 ahead of "every" the phrase "subject to the availability of federal funds for the purpose" be inserted.

Mrs. Hayes asked if federal funds would be available for the State highway system. The answer was "No".

Mr. Demers asked if we could begin a small scale conversion, go ahead on some of the state highways.

Mr. Phelps stated this could not be done and he felt that the kilometer designation was not at this time necessary as there were only a very small percentage of automobiles with the odometers calibrated in kilometers.

Mr. Demers pointed out the meter system was being taught in school now and it would be helpful to the educational process to have practical application of the conversion.

Mr. Phelps said there was a plan, within the Federal highway department, in the preliminary stages for conversion of all signs by the early 1980's. The State highway department is not prepared to go into such a program at this time.

Mr. Glover asked how many signs were replaced each year and was told roughly 1/7th of 18,000 signs. Each sign had an estimated seven year life.

Mr. Demers asked the result of the legislature going ahead and passing the bill - AB 21.

Mr. Phelps said he could not answer the question. Under the uniform traffic control devices, it would not be permitted on the interstate and primary system. The State would be subject to penalties. If the State goes into the program now, they will have to cut funds from the maintenance program. There is a shortage of State money for highway maintenance and it is all being used in the preservation of road surfaces rather than appurtenances to it.

Mrs. Hayes questioned if it would not be saving State money to begin the conversion of the signs to the metric system now rather than have to do it all at one time.

Mr. Phelps answered "No" that it would not.

Mr. Jacobsen asked if the department had any cooperative agreements with any of the counties for sign installation.

The answer was again "No", only occasionally on the off-system program where it was for the improvement of traffic.

Assemblyman Robinson asked the cost of replacing the 18,000 signs over a period of seven years, if the adding of the information in meters would elevate the cost over ordinary lettering.

Mr. Phelps answered the cost at present prices would be \$2,080,000, if metricized, which is more than it would be if the metric measures were omitted because larger signs were required for the additional lettering.

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AB 22

Assemblyman Sena spoke for the bill. The 1975 legislature amended the drivers license act because they had tremendous problems in Clark County with illegal aliens obtaining drivers licenses. In the process of amending the act an item was inadvertently omitted. The Committee was requested to consider amendment of drivers licenses again to include "passports, a report of births abroad, United States citizens identification card or a letter from the United States Department of Justice Division."

The problem arises with people who come from overseas to Clark County and are unable to obtain drivers licenses because of lack of a letter from immigration. Mr. Sena distributed copies of a letter from the immigration office (EXHIBIT "B") illustrating the Clark County problem.

Mr. Sena also requested the amendment include "drivers licenses from other states and the District of Columbia" If this language is reinserted it may weaken the bill, because it is very easy to obtain a drivers license in some states for persons of illegal status.

Mr. Demers asked if Mr. Sena thought the Committee should put some words to the effect "any other document approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles" so that the bill will not have to be amended again, if something else comes up. Mr. Sena did not have any objections to this wording.

Mr. Howard Hill, Director, Department of Motor Vehicles, was the next speaker in favor of AB 22. The problem was with the wording. As drafted the bill does not allow the acceptance of out of state drivers license as identification. This would strengthen the law but would put quite a burden on the people moving into the State. It would hinder those people who jump from state to state.

Also on page 2, lines 11-13, we interpret this to mean the Department would make the determination as to whether a person was a citizen or an illegal alien. They would only have to present a baptismal certificate or birth certificate from abroad and say they were a citizen. We could not prove otherwise and with this as proper identification, we would have to give them a drivers license. For language the Department of Motor Vehicles would like to see in the bill see EXHIBIT "C".

Mr. Hill also requested that if the bill were passed, that the bill go into effect upon passage and approval because a lot of people cannot get their drivers license because they don't have proper identification.

Mr. Sena did not have any objections to this change of wording. Mr. Hill added that by not accepting an out of state drivers license as proper identification they were creating a lot of

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problems for 95% of the people in order to eliminate the 5% who were not qualified. The Department does not object to this if this is what the legislature wishes to do.

Mr. Darrell Capurro, Managing Director of the Nevada Transport Association spoke against the bill. Securing a birth certificate can be a long drawn out process. He suggested the Committee amend the bill to accept as proper identification proof acceptable to the Department of Motor Vehicles "with regard to drivers licenses". This wording would clarify the "intent" of the bill.

AB 30

Assemblyman Darrell Dryer spoke in favor of the bill. There was a need because the hurling of objects at vehicles could and sometime did result in serious injuries.

On page 2, section 3, line 3, the sentences for the offenses outlined seemed rather severe but it was the only way to deter willful misconduct. Bodily harm resulting from these acts were covered in another measure. It is a misdemeanor, the penalty is \$1000 fine and a one year prison sentence.

Mr. Bart Jacka, Assistant Sheriff of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, stated their objection to AB 30 was that the penalty was too great. The key to the bill was the phrase "with intent to do severe bodily injury". If it can be proven the intent is to disrupt traffic there is no question as to "intent". Section 1 makes it a gross misdemeanor to fire a weapon at a vehicle if no injury results. There is conflict as to punishment. They recommend something less than one to six years in the State Penitentiary. Gross misdemeanor is applicable in this situation. This bill is trying to take care of the malicious mischief problem and there really isn't any intent to cause death. That is covered in other acts.

Mr. John Ciardella, Chief of Registration Division, Department of Motor Vehicles spoke for the bill. There was a real need for this because they had just lost a case for lack of it.

Chairman Hayes declared a five minute recess.

AB 21

Mr. Demers moved to amend AB 21, after section 3, suggesting "upon availability of Federal Funds" and at some other appropriate place in the bill, wording to encourage the State Highway Department to implement more kilometer signs.

Mr. Glover leaned toward "enabling legislation". It was bad to put legislation on the books that would take care of itself in a few years. They could not be unconcerned about the state cost of the program.

Mr. May concurred and seconded the motion to amend AB 21 ~~AB 21~~ ssv

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The motion carried unanimously.

AB22

Mr. Jacobsen moved to pass the measure as amended, including its becoming effective upon passage and approval.

Mr. Glover seconded the motion, with the provision the Committee would review the amendments .

The motion carried unanimously.

AB 30

Mr. Demers moved to amend the penalty provision in this measure to "gross misdemeanor".

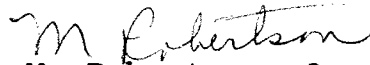
Upon discussion by the Committee it was agreed to hold the bill for clarification.

Mr. Demers withdrew his motion.

Mr. Demers moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. May.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted



M. Robertson, Assembly Attache

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Thursday, January 20, 1977—Las Vegas Review-Journal—27

The U.S. inches its way to metric measure

By Louise Cook
AP Writer

Slowly but surely, inch by centimeter, the United States is going metric.

Liquor bottlers started introducing metric sizes last fall and will convert completely to six basic metric sizes within two years. Soda companies are testing one-liter containers. Almost half the states are using metric measurements on some of their road signs.

The metric system — used by almost all the rest of the world — has been a long time coming to America.

The federal Office of Consumer Affairs says that George Washington urged Congress in 1790 to adopt a uniform system for currency, weights and measures.

It was 1975 before Congress acted, passing the Metric Conversion Act establishing a 17-member U.S. Metric Board to coordinate a voluntary switch to the metric system.

The board has several duties under the law. It is required to make sure the public is represented fairly in the conversion process, to publicize proposed changes, to encourage the standardization of metric language in science and engineering and to consult with other countries to make sure that U.S. standards are in keeping with those in the rest of the world.

The Office of Education already has awarded \$2.1 million in grants and contracts to state and local governments for metric instruction projects. The agency will

start issuing similar grants to public and private non-profit organizations this year.

The money covers four basic types of projects:

—School programs operated by a local education agency.

—State and multi-state planning programs.

—Teacher training programs conducted mainly by colleges and universities.

—Programs providing technical support for national metric education.

The switch may seem confusing for a while, but the Office of Consumer Affairs says: "When metrication is complete ... it should make little difference to consumers that gasoline will be sold by the liter instead of the gallon, that distance will be measured by kilometers instead of miles or that food will be packaged and sold by kilograms instead of ounces and pounds."

Consumers looking for more information about the metric system have several sources of information.

The National Bureau of Standards provides a package of metric facts. Write the bureau's Metric Information Office, Washington, D.C., 20234 or telephone 301-921-2318.

The American National Metric Council, a non-governmental organization formed in 1973, provides information about the metric system in business and industry. Write ANMC, 1625 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., 20036. Phone: 202-232-4545.

24 grants for State Highway System

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
Room 1-519, 300 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

January 18, 1977

Honorable Nash M. Sena
Nevada State Assembly
Legislative Building
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Sena,

With reference to our personal conversation of January 12, 1977,
the following information is furnished for your use.

Prior to the passage of a Bill by the Nevada State Legislature,
this office apprehended 1554 illegal aliens in the Las Vegas
area. Of this number, we handled fifteen to twenty per month
which had obtained Nevada Driver's Licenses. During Fiscal Year
1976, this office apprehended 1672 illegal aliens in the Las Vegas
area. This was the period from June 30, 1975 to June 30, 1976.
Only two or three driver's licenses were obtained during any
two or three month period. Of these licenses, they were obtained
by the alien presenting a false Alien Registration Card to the
Nevada Driver's License Bureau.

Having this law in the State of Nevada has greatly reduced the
illegal alien's ability to obtain employment in the State, because
they now cannot obtain a driver's license.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,



JAMES E. WALSH,
Supervisory Immigration Officer

JEW/gts

EXHIBIT "B"

1/27/77
rk

A. B. 22

4. Every applicant shall furnish proof of his age by displaying:

(a) If the applicant was born in the United States, a birth certificate, baptismal certificate or other proof acceptable to the department, including, but not limited to, a driver's license issued by another state or the District of Columbia; or

(b) A Certificate of Citizenship, a Certificate of Naturalization, an Arrival - Departure Record, [or] an Alien Registration Receipt Card issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the United States Department of Justice, a passport, a Report of Birth Abroad of a United States Citizen Child issued by the Department of State, United States Citizen Identification Card or a Letter of Authorization issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the United States Department of Justice if the applicant was born outside the United States.

EXHIBIT "C"

TRANSPORTATION
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE 1-27-77
SUBJECT AB-21

MOTION:
Do Pass _____ Amend Indefinitely Postpone _____ Reconsider _____

Moved By _____ Seconded By _____
AMENDMENT: _____

Moved By Demers Seconded By Mr. May

AMENDMENT: "Upon Availability of Fed Funds -
enabling legislation"

Moved BY _____ Seconded By _____

VOTE:	<u>MOTION</u>		<u>AMEND</u>		<u>AMEND</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
HAYES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
DEMERS	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
GLOVER	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
HARMON	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
MAY	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
JACOBSEN	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
WESTALL	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____

TALLY:
ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed _____ Defeated _____ Withdrawn _____
AMENDED & PASSED _____ AMENDED & DEFEATED _____
AMENDED & PASSED _____ AMENDED & DEFEATED _____

Attached to Minutes _____

TRANSPORTATION
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE 1-27-77

SUBJECT AB-22

MOTION:

Do Pass Amend Indefinitely Postpone _____ Reconsider _____

Moved By Mr. Jacobson Seconded By Glover

AMENDMENT: as outlined in minutes -

Moved By _____ Seconded By _____

AMENDMENT: _____

Moved BY _____ Seconded By _____

VOTE:	MOTION		AMEND		AMEND	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
HAYES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
DEMERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
GLOVER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HARMON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
MAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
JACOBSEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
WESTALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

TALLY:

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed _____ Defeated _____ Withdrawn _____

AMENDED & PASSED _____ AMENDED & DEFEATED _____

AMENDED & PASSED _____ AMENDED & DEFEATED _____

Attached to Minutes _____

59TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

TRANSPORTATION
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE 301.27-77

SUBJECT AB-30

MOTION:

Do Pass _____ Amend _____ Indefinitely Postpone _____ Reconsider

Moved By _____ Seconded By _____

AMENDMENT: Held for Clarification

Moved By _____ Seconded By _____

AMENDMENT: _____

Moved BY _____ Seconded By _____

VOTE:	<u>MOTION</u>		<u>AMEND</u>		<u>AMEND</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
HAYES	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
DEMERS	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
GLOVER	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
HARMON	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
MAY	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
JACOBSEN	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
WESTALL	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____

TALLY:

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed _____ Defeated _____ Withdrawn _____

AMENDED & PASSED _____ AMENDED & DEFEATED _____

AMENDED & PASSED _____ AMENDED & DEFEATED _____

Attached to Minutes _____