

2009 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

SB 2150

## 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2150

Senate Transportation Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 16, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7111

Committee Clerk Signature

*John Hauge*

Minutes:

Senator Lee opened the Transportation committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January.

Clerk took attendance (4-2). Senator Nething and Senator Marcellais were absent.

**Senator Lee** opened the hearing on SB 2150 relating to use of the owner's legal name for motor vehicle registration.

**Glenn Jackson** testified in support of SB 2150. Written testimony #1.

**Senator Nodland** asked why?

**Jackson** answered that currently any name can be used on a title. So you could register a vehicle in any combination of your name, nickname, initials, etc. He said when they send out a registration renewal, they can't tie those vehicles to one person because we have to go by the name. So even though one person owns more than one vehicle, if they are registered different they cannot tie them together. In the future they would like a one page paper invoice title, so all the vehicles owned by a person are on one sheet of paper. Secondly, they want to move to a system that would allow people to do all transactions online.

**Senator Nodland** clarified that it was a data base cleanup.

**Jackson** said that is correct. Jackson discussed the five year timetable and what they would do after. They will work with individuals after the five years.

**Senator Fiebiger** asked why they weren't going to have all of the owners provide the information.

**Jackson** said the reason was the undue burden of two people having to prove the name.

**Senator Potter** asked if they currently ask for proof of who they are.

**Jackson** said they really don't have to show proof. The name of the driver's license does not have to be the same as what is on the title. We want to clean up our data base, this is not an identification process, this is a data base process.

**Senator Lee** asked how they would know what would satisfied the director.

**Jackson** said they are looking for some evidence that this person standing there is who they are. He replied that overall this is flexible and it is working toward the future of our data base.

**Senator Fiebiger** asked if a birth certificate would be enough identification for this process.

**Jackson** replied that at this time they are planning to use the photo as validation.

**Senator Nodland** asked again about the time table.

**Jackson** said that they were looking at in 2020 and how we want our system to serves our citizens. This data is one step and it is very inexpensive.

No further testimony.

Closed the hearing.

## 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2150

Senate Transportation Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 16, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7113

Committee Clerk Signature

*Jody Haug*

Minutes:

Committee work. (1.13 minutes)

Senator Lee opened discussion on SB 2150.

Senator Fiebiger said he would like a little more time especially with Senator Nething and

Senator Marcellais absent.

The committee will revisit SB 2150 at a later date.

## 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2150

Senate Transportation Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 22, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7574

Committee Clerk Signature

*Jody Hauge*

Minutes:

Committee work on SB 2150 relating to use of the owner's legal name for motor vehicle registration.

Discussion on the bill and the actual purpose of the Bill.

**Senator Potter** moved a Do Pass.

**Senator Nodland** seconded.

Roll call vote on a do pass 6-0-0.

Senator Nodland will carry the bill.

Senator Fiebiger handed out some e-mails he received for information on SB 2151.

Discussion on SB 2151.

The committee is not ready to vote on it.

Date: 1-22-09  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2150

Senate Transportation Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Other

Motion Made By Senator Potter Seconded By Senator Nodland

Senator	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Senator Gary Lee	✓		Senator Tom Fiebiger	✓	
Senator George Nodland	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Dave Nething	✓		Senator Tracy Potter	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Nodland

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2150: Transportation Committee (Sen. G. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS**  
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2150 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

SB 2150



## 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2150

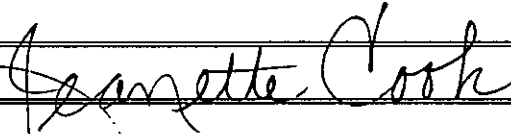
House Transportation Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/05/09

Recorder Job Number: 10257

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Glenn Jackson, Director of the Drivers License and Traffic Safety Division at the North Dakota DOT**, spoke in support of SB 2150. See attachment #1.

**Representative Delmore:** Why is this necessary? I don't see why we would have someone come in and provide proof of identification when they have renewed that vehicle forever.

**Glenn Jackson:** What we are trying to achieve in this bill is to give us a legal name requirement. Right now anyone can register a vehicle as L. Delmore, as R. L. Delmore, or any combination of words that you want to use. You don't have to have your legal name, to actually have it on the title or to register the vehicle. When we do renewal notifications, we go by the address and the name in order. Because the names are different, even if vehicles are owned by the same person, we can't put them in the same envelope because we can't correlate them to one owner. We are trying to move towards a process in which we could use one sheet of paper invoice of all the vehicles that someone owns. So, we could send one notice instead of multi-renewal notices. To get to that point, we have to have something that correlates who owns these vehicles. We are looking at the legal names to correlate the names together for all the vehicles that someone owns. So, if I own five vehicles, they all have to be registered as Glenn Jackson. They can't be G. Jackson, or G.R. Jackson. They have to be

the same. We are going to get to that point by looking at the name and address. The system can determine that they all belong to the same person and send one renewal notice. We want to move to a point where we can reduce the amount of mailing that we have to mail out to reduce cost. After that we can open it up on the internet. A citizen will be able to use a login and a password to access all of their vehicles. We could do more transactions online, achieve more things, and get more access for citizens to their records. This is our first step. Our database is so messed up with so many different names that we can't correlate things together. That's what we are trying to do with this bill.

**Representative Delmore:** We have three vehicles that are registered to my husband and me. None of them come due at the same time. How are you going to bill? Will I have to pay early or late for one of my vehicles?

**Glenn Jackson:** They do come at different times. In the first stage we are trying to get it so all of the names are the same. When we get to that point, we will send out one invoice who has five vehicles. They may not all be due at that time, so it might be sent again. The intent is not to make people pay them all at one time.

**Representative Weisz** commented that many people do get a lot at one time, and it would be nice to be able to mail them together.

**Representative R. Kelsch:** If I chose to pay all six of my vehicles when I got the renewal notices, could they be credited to me and paid at the time they were due?

**Glenn Jackson:** I suppose you could, but we would probably just send the tabs out early

**Representative Frantsovog:** Does just one individual on the vehicle title have to provide ID?

**Glenn Jackson:** That is correct, when someone comes in we don't want to force a husband and wife to all have to come in to show proof of their legal name. Only one person has to come in, if their names are on there together.

**Chairman Ruby** brought up a situation with a driver's license and requirement of ID, which is different than the case for vehicle registration.

**Chairman Ruby:** Why did you use five years?

**Glenn Jackson:** That is the implementation process. I believe, if we tried to tell everyone that this next year every vehicle had to be identified with a legal name, it would be very hard to achieve. Over the period of five years most vehicles are bought or sold, or most people come into the office to do something with those vehicles. We estimate that over that period of five years the majority of our database will be updated through normal contact. After five years we will have to require that for vehicles that are not updated.

**Representative Gruchalla:** From a legal standpoint I suppose it would be a lot easier to locate someone who abandons a vehicle.

**Glenn Jackson:** That is correct.

**Representative Delmore:** Before five years won't people be able to go online to get registration? What will you do for proof there?

**Glenn Jackson:** People can do that online right now. We are going to have to look at some way to validate their legal name. Online we don't have a way to do that. There will come a point in time, when they go online to register, it will say unable to achieve this at this time. They will have to come in.

**Representative Delmore:** Are we making more of a hassle for my constituents for your convenience?

**Glenn Jackson:** It is a hassle. We are looking at a very fragmented database. It is difficult to pull anything together to achieve the efficiencies that we need to do with our shrinking manpower and increasing costs. We need to look at ways to do things that are less expensive. Eventually, the average citizen is going to be able to do everything online. They

will be able to buy and sell vehicles, transfer titles, and do everything online without ever having to come into the DOT office. That is the goal. So, the idea is to have it in place by 2020, so you never have to come into the DOT office. There will still be offices open, but won't be need a much. To get to that point, we have to be able to update our database and move in that direction.

**Glenn Jackson** reiterated the fact that only one person on the title will have to provide proof of their legal name, and that person could verify the other names. The owners would then only get one renewal notice.

**Chairman Ruby:** Other than sending multiple envelopes, where has the problem been that you don't have the right name on the titles?

**Glenn Jackson:** That is our primary issue at this time. We send out a lot more mail than we really need to, and that is a cost. Secondly, in order to move technology forward and do new things, we are going to have to have a way to correlate our vehicles. We don't want to have to go to a driver's license required or something else that would be more controlling in nature.

**Representative Delmore:** Are there really that many people that register vehicles under six different names?

**Glenn Jackson** confirmed that there are many that do.

**Representative Potter** questioned if people could do this at the same time as they renew their driver's license to avoid making a special trip.

**Glenn Jackson:** Certainly, they can bring the proof to validate the name any time, it doesn't have to be with a registration.

**Representative R. Kelsch:** I don't really think the bill is such a big deal. More and more when people are registering and making purchases, they have to show an ID anyway. When you check in at a motel, you have to show an ID and a credit card to show that you are the

person you say you are. I think that once people understand what the purpose is behind it, I don't think it is that much of a hassle. I would love to do everything online.

**Representative Thorpe** feels the bill is OK. He related a story that he felt that it would have helped him when he purchased a car.

**Representative Delmore:** What percentage of people mail the check rather than go to the office?

**Glenn Jackson:** Around 39% right now.

**Chairman Ruby** asked about a fee to change a title.

**Glenn Jackson:** There will be no fee for this. It is just to update our database.

**Representative Delmore:** How will you determine what order you do this in five years?

**Glenn Jackson:** We have not made a determination of how to proceed after five years. We are going to look at the data and see who has not given us the information that we need.

**Chairman Ruby:** What happens if they don't come in after five years? What is the penalty?

**Glenn Jackson:** There is no penalty for not doing it at this time. We are going to advertise. We are going to put out flyers in our renewal registration notices, so people see that and know it. There will also be a notice on the internet. We will let them know that this information that we will need to receive from them. At the end of five years we will have to take a different path to clean the database up. We are estimating that in five years through normal contact we will see the vast majority of people. With one contact we can update all the vehicles that a person has.

**Representative Schmidt:** : Would a birth certificate or a VISA card work for ID?

**Glenn Jackson:** We want to see a form of identification with information and a picture. Again, we are not looking at establishing your identity.

**Representative Thorpe:** What would happen if an elderly lady inherits a Cadillac and doesn't have any of these forms of ID? How will she become an owner?

**Glenn Jackson:** I believe that the statute does give us leeway to use other documents as necessary. We would be able take a look on a case by case basis.

**Representative Vigesaa:** What if a person has a son who lives in the same household and has the same initials and address. Are you going to have to make personal contact with the father to check to see if the other vehicles are his as well?

**Glenn Jackson:** When we make personal contact with the father, we can actually ask him at that time which vehicles are his.

**There was no additional testimony on SB 2150.**

The hearing was closed on SB 2150.

**Representative Thorpe moved a Do Pass on SB 2150.**

**Representative Potter** seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. **Aye 10 Nay 3 Absent 1**

**The motion passed.**

**Representative Thorpe will carry SB 2150.**

Date: 3/5/09

Roll Call Vote #: \_\_\_\_\_

**2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**

**BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** 2150

House TRANSPORTATION Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken ☒ Do pass ☐ Don't Pass ☐ Amended

Motion Made By Thorpe Seconded By Potter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Representative Ruby - Chairman	✓		Representative Delmore		✓
Rep. Weiler - Vice Chairman	✓		Representative Griffin	✓	
Representative Frantsvog	✓		Representative Gruchalla	✓	
Representative Heller	✓		Representative Potter	✓	
Representative R. Kelsch	✓		Representative Schmidt		✓
Representative Sukut	✓		Representative Thorpe	✓	
Representative Vigasaa		✓			
Representative Weisz	✓				

Total Yes 10 No 3

Absent 1

Bill Carrier Thorpe

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
March 5, 2009 1:05 p.m.

**Module No: HR-40-4116**  
**Carrier: Thorpe**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2150: Transportation Committee (Rep. Ruby, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(10 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2150 was placed on the  
Fourteenth order on the calendar.



2009 TESTIMONY

SB 2150

##1

**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**January 16, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. Lewis and Clark Room**

**North Dakota Department of Transportation  
Glenn Jackson, Motor Vehicle Division Director**

**SB2150**

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Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Glenn Jackson, Director of the Motor Vehicle Division at the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present information to you today.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation pre-filed Senate Bill 2150 as an agency bill. This bill creates a legal name requirement for vehicle titling and registration that will enable the Department to transition to a more cost effective registration renewal process. Our estimate is that within approximately five years, most vehicles will have changed hands and our data file will be significantly more current.

For the first five years, we will require proof of legal names on vehicle purchases and vehicle ownership transfers. If a vehicle has not been updated with proof of a legal name at the end of the five years, the owner will be required to do so at a branch office or the central office.

In order to minimize the impact on our citizens, we have streamlined the process to decrease hardship. Only one individual is required to present identification for the title, even though more may be listed on the title. This individual will list the co-owners at the time of registration. Proof of legal name can come from a ND State Drivers License, ND State Identification card, or valid photo identification.

Nearly every title or initial registration application is completed at a branch office or the central office. Identification will be validated at the time. In addition, individuals who walk in for vehicle registration renewals will also have their legal name updated throughout this first five years.

In the case of dealer sales, the auto dealer will ensure the legal name is entered on all registration applications, and include a copy of the identifying document with the vehicle transfer paperwork. For individual sales in which the application is mailed into the central office, we will work with the individuals to obtain a fax copy or standard copy of identification.

Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to answer any questions at this time. Thank you.

# Attachment # 1

## HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 5, 2009, 9:45 a.m.

Fort Totten Room

North Dakota Department of Transportation  
Glenn Jackson, Director, Drivers License & Traffic Safety Division

SB2150

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Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Glenn Jackson, Director of the Drivers License & Traffic Safety Division at the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present information to you today.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation pre-filed Senate Bill 2150 as an agency bill. This bill creates a legal name requirement for vehicle titling and registration that will enable the Department to transition to a more cost effective registration renewal process. Our estimate is that within approximately five years, most vehicles will have changed hands and our data file will be significantly more current.

For the first five years, we will require proof of legal names on new vehicle purchases and vehicle transfer purchases. If a vehicle has not been updated with proof of a legal name at the end of the five years, the owner will be required to do so at a branch office or the central office.

In order to minimize the impact on our citizens, we have streamlined the process to decrease hardship. Only one individual is required to present identification for the title, even though more may be listed on the title. This individual will list his co-owners at the time of registration. Proof of legal name can come from a ND State Drivers License, ND State Identification card, or a valid photo identification.

Nearly every title or initial registration application is completed at a branch office or the central office. Identification will be validated at the time.

In the case of dealer sales, the auto dealer will ensure the legal name is entered on all registration applications, and include a copy of the identifying document with the vehicle transfer paperwork. For individual sales in which the application is mailed into the central office, we will work with the individuals to obtain a fax copy or standard copy of identification.

Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to answer any questions at this time. Thank you.