

Seatbelt Fine Stays At \$25, 'Passing-Speed' Gains Approval

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state House of Representatives took two big votes Thursday on rules of South Dakota's roads. House members rejected legislation that would have doubled the fine to \$50 for seatbelt violations.

But they approved letting motorists legally exceed the speed limit at times when passing on two-lane highways. The "speed to pass" measure now heads to the Senate for consideration.

It would allow motorists to drive up to 75 miles per hour when passing another vehicle traveling slower than the speed limit in a 65-mph zone.

"This is a safety concern and a common-sense bill," Rep. Burt Tulson, R-Lake Norden, said. He is prime sponsor of HB 1124.

The vote was 66-1.

Rep. Tim Rounds, R-Pierre, asked, "How fast was this bill going when it passed Judiciary (Committee)?"

"It was cruising," Tulson replied.

House members showed minimal interest in increasing the penalty for seatbelt violations.

Rep. Dick Werner, R-Huron, said his goal of increasing the amount to \$50 from \$25 was to "heighten awareness" because South Dakota has one of the lowest rates of usage.

No one spoke up on his side but the opponents came out. "My whole area, I don't think very many of them wear seatbelts," Rep. Dean Schrempp, D-Lantry, said. "I just think we need to get rid of this bill."

Rep. Shawn Bordeaux, D-Mission, said he supports seatbelts and safety but unemployment is high in his area and \$50 would bring "undue hardship."

"I have more children than I can fit in one vehicle with appropriate seatbelts," Bordeaux said.

Werner said there were 130 deaths on South Dakota's roads last year and 72 were the result of not wearing seatbelts and being ejected or partially ejected.

Another 500 people were seriously injured, he said.

Rep. Elizabeth May, R-Kyle, said those had to be "a very small percentage of people" who were on South Dakota's roads.

"There can't be a problem with this or we'd be seeing more deaths," she said.

Rep. Dan Kaiser, R-Aberdeen, said different fines become a hindrance on law enforcement. Seatbelt violations are a petty offense and the standard penalty is \$25.

"For consistency purposes I would suggest we keep it the same," Kaiser, a policeman, said.

Werner said the state Department of Public Safety, which includes the Highway Patrol, supported the higher fine. Fine money goes to school districts in South Dakota.

"We need to be a safer South Dakota," Werner said.

Most of the House thought otherwise. The vote was 45-22 to kill HB 1138.

Rounds Calls For Arming Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP) — South Dakota's junior U.S. Senator is joining other lawmakers in urging the president to arm Ukrainians in the fight against Russia-backed separatists.

U.S. Senator Mike Rounds sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Rounds and other senators held a press conference Thursday to call on President Barack Obama to supply Ukraine with "lethal arms."

Fighting between Russia-backed separatists and government forces picked up in January after a month of relative calm. The rebels pledge to carry on with their offensive on the government positions until Kiev stops shelling cities like Donetsk.

Rounds says allowing Ukrainians to "punch the bully in the nose" could make Russian President Vladimir Putin "think twice" about aggression.

Nebraska

Mail-In Voting Bill Could Boost Turnout

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb — Voting precincts in rural Nebraska could see a jump in turnout if lawmakers pass a bill (LB319) to expand the use of mail-only ballots, Secretary of State John Gale said Thursday.

Gale told a legislative committee that counties which use mail-only voting have saved money because they're no longer required to haul special equipment to polling sites to comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. It's also helps turnout in areas with bad roads or bad weather on Election Day, he said.

"It definitely improves the voter turnout because the ranchers and the farmers and small businessmen in those rural precincts are able to cast their ballot by mailing it back," said Gale, a Republican. "It's been very well-received by the citizens who are in those precincts."

The bill by Sen. Jim Smith of Pappillion would give all counties the chance to conduct elections by mail in certain rural precincts, if the state approves. Under current law, counties can only

seek the state's permission if they have fewer than 10,000 residents.

Smith said his bill is intended for precincts that aren't able to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, or that don't have many voters. Counties that already have mail-only precincts have saved time and money, he said.

Some rural counties have switched to mail-in voting in nearly all of their precincts. In Cherry County, state law requires voters to cast ballots by mail in 17 of its 20 precincts. Ballots have to be sent to all registered voters in the 17 mail-only precincts outside of Valentine, so roughly half of the county's voters don't have to request one.

Thomas Elliott, the county's clerk and elections commissioner, said turnout averaged around 55 percent before the switch to mail-in voting. Now, turnout is closer to 75 percent.

Prior to the switch, Elliott said eight of his precincts were at least an hour's drive from Valentine — and one was 120 miles away.

"For the most part, it's worked well," he said. "Change is hard sometimes, and we had a transition period. But it wasn't the mechanics of going to the all-mail

system. It was getting people accustomed to it."

Some senators on the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee questioned whether the state should pass laws that boost turnout in some areas but not others.

Sen. John Murante of Gretna pointed to a recent legislative election in Cherry County, where voters outside of Valentine differed from those in town and had stronger turnout.

"I'm not sure that's an appropriate public policy for the state Nebraska to have ... but that's the net effect of what happens when you get into those situations," said Murante, the committee chairman.

Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte said he was concerned that an expansion of mail-in voting could lead to fraud, with family members filling out ballots on a voter's behalf or pressuring them to support a certain candidate. Gale said counties work to verify signatures to prevent fraud.

The bill would also let counties use mail-in ballots for special elections involving a candidate, such as a recall or runoff. Current law only allows special elections by mail on financial issues, such as bond referendums.

Committee Rejects Bill To Require Paid Employee Sick Leave In S.D.

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — A proposal to require South Dakota employers to offer paid sick leave was defeated Thursday, falling victim to business opposition during a legislative hearing.

The Senate Commerce and Energy Committee voted to kill the proposal after significant pushback from business groups that argued the state shouldn't add more mandates to burden employers in South Dakota.

The proposal would have allowed employees to accrue an hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours they work once they've been at the company for three months.

Sen. Angie Buhl O'Donnell, a Democrat from Sioux Falls, said paid sick leave is an important public health issue. She said allowing employees to stay home when they're sick is an especially critical issue now given this year's flu and measles outbreaks.

"This is not just a matter

of someone might come to work with the sniffles," she said. "These are illnesses people could die from."

But new government mandates come with a cost for employers, said South Dakota Retailers Association executive director Shawn Lyons. He told the committee that the proposal would have a "chilling effect" on small employers' ability to stay in business.

Opponents also said the bill was too broad because it didn't cap the amount of sick days employees could earn. They also noted the bill would have applied to all employers, regardless of the business' size.

The bill also was met with concerns about how it might compound the effects of the minimum wage increase that South Dakota voters approved in November.

"Now is not the time to add an additional burden like mandatory paid leave," Lyons said.

Buhl O'Donnell's proposal came as President Barack

Obama pushed last month for federal earned sick leave legislation and urged states and cities to support similar laws in the meantime. Three states — California, Connecticut and Massachusetts — require paid employee sick leave, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"South Dakota doesn't have to be last in everything," Buhl O'Donnell told the committee. "When my server doesn't hand me the flu with my steak ... we're all going to be a little bit better off."

But the panel, which included Democrats, voted unanimously to scrap the proposal.

Buhl O'Donnell said she hopes lawmakers will start thinking about workers as well as employers.

Republican Sen. Brock Greenfield said he had heard from a significant number of people opposing the measure.

"This issue has garnered the attention of so many people in the private sector," Greenfield said. "I received a lot of concerns."

Senate Approves New Games For Deadwood

PIERRE (AP) — The state Senate has passed a measure that would authorize three new voter-approved games in Deadwood.

The chamber on Thursday voted 27-7 to approve the proposal to allow keno, craps and roulette in the historic mining town. It is now expected to be heard in a House committee.

Supporters have pushed the measure as a way to keep Deadwood competitive with other gambling hotspots such as Colorado and Iowa. In November, 57 percent of voters approved constitutional Amendment Q, which gave the Legislature the authority to implement the new games.

Senate backers said their colleagues should follow the lead that voters set when they approved the plan. Opponents argue gambling provokes addictions and causes social and financial problems for families in South Dakota.

OBITUARIES

Kenneth Feilmeier

Kenneth Lee Feilmeier, age 66 of Hartington, Nebraska, was surrounded by his family when he died on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at his residence after a lengthy illness.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington with Rev. Jeffery Loseke and Rev. Jim Keiter officiating. Burial will be in St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Fordyce with military honors provided by the Hartington VFW Post 5283 and the Legion Riders. Visitation will be on Friday from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm with a Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m. at the



Feilmeier

Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Saturday at the church. To view the video tribute, or to send online condolences, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Dave Adams, Doug Stevens, Rich Promes, Dick Wiebelhaus, Gene Wiebelhaus, Don Schroeder, Wally Ulrich, Lonnie Sackschewsky, Merle Loecker and Dennis Loecker.

Active Pallbearers will be Dean Pick, Mark Rose, Kelly Konken, Chuck Murray, James Weddingfeld and Tim Dresden.

Kenny was born on October 7, 1948 at Yankton, SD to Jacob Frank and Helen Frances (Albers) Feilmeier. He lived in Hartington his entire life and graduated from Hartington High School in 1966. He joined the U.S. Army when he was 18 years old and served in Vietnam from February 16, 1967 to February 14, 1969 as a radio carrier. Kenny married Tammi Boardman on May 9, 1970 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington. They lived on a farm southeast of Hartington for 41 years before

moving into Hartington in 2012. Kenny farmed, fed cattle and hogs with his father-in-law, worked for Abler Transfer, Prince Hydraulics and Neu Cheese Company. He drove a school bus for Hartington Public Schools for 25 years and tended bar throughout the years at Tooties, Mainstreet, Promes's, Leise's, Wiebelhaus Service and the Hartington VFW.

Kenny was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church and was a member and former commander of the Hartington VFW Post 5283 and the Hartington American Legion Post # 4. Over the years he had 18 different boys help him on

the farm. He loved to hunt with his Minnesota friends and Aaron. He loved to turkey hunt with his daughters at the cabin in Long Pine. He enjoyed Nebraska football and loved to dance. He never missed any of his daughters games or activities as he loved being with them and his two grandsons.

Kenny is survived by his wife, Tammi Feilmeier of Hartington; two daughters and their husbands, Melissa and Pat Kuehn of Fordyce; McCheryl and Jim Sudbeck of Fordyce; two grandsons, Logan Sudbeck and Aaron Petersen, special friend, Sandy Petersen of Hartington; three sisters, Carol White of Blaine, MN; Diane

Kass of Omaha; Bonnie and Chris Hudson of Yankton and a brother, Duane and Doris Feilmeier of Hartington.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers-in-law, Jim White and Tom Kass.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 6, 2015



WINTZ FUNERAL HOME

Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

Arlo Bueber

Funeral services for Arlo Arlen Bueber, 76, of Delmont will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at Zion Lutheran Church in Delmont. Burial will follow in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Delmont with military graveside rites provided by the Delmont American Legion and U.S. National Guard Funeral Honor Guard. Visitation will be held on Friday, February 6 at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp from 3 p.m. until a 7 p.m. prayer service there; family will be present from 6 to 7 p.m. Arlo passed away on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at Ambassador Health in Lincoln. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Goglin Funeral Home of Tripp. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin Funeral Home
Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



Jackie Voudry

Jackie Voudry a long-time resident of the Vermillion, SD area, died Wednesday the 4th of February 2015 at her home with her family by her side.

Jackie Shurtleff was born March 2, 1947 in Vermillion, SD to Harold and Emma (Crane) Shurtleff. She married Jerry Voudry on August 6, 1976 in Yankton, SD; they lived in Vermillion.

She always gave her all to her work and those she loved. Her last job, a cook for Aramark at the University of South Dakota, she especially enjoyed. Many students and co-workers called her "Grandma" as she always had a smile and a conversation to share.

She is survived by her four children: Carol McCauley of Sioux City, Les Aust of Vermillion, Bill Aust of Florida and Christal (Chris) Brown of Sugar Land, TX as well as 11 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Jackie loved spending time with family and teaching those around her. She enjoyed shopping for a good deal and especially loved finding the perfect pair of shoes with coordinating handbag. She tirelessly gave of herself to provide for her loved ones and to ensure they were cared for.

Funeral services will be 3:00 p.m. Monday February 9 at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion.

Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. Sunday with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. all at the Funeral Home.

Visit HansenFuneralHome.com.
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February 6, 2015

Ronald Kjonegaard

Funeral services for Ronald O. "Ron" Kjonegaard, 76, of Chamberlain, SD will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Chamberlain. Burial will be in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery at rural Wakonda.

Visitation will be Friday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with family present at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Chamberlain.

Ronald (Ron) Oscar Kjonegaard passed away on February 4th, 2015 at the Sanford Centennial Hospice Cottage in Sioux Falls, SD at the age of 76. He was born on the farm near Volin, SD on June 15, 1938 to Oscar and Mildred Kjonegaard. He attend school in Volin, SD and graduated from Volin High School in May of 1956. On the Friday

following his high school graduation, Ron left for Parks Air Force Base in California to begin his basic training. During his 4 years in the Air Force he served at bases in Mississippi, Japan, Hawaii and Montana.

Ron was united in marriage to Carolyn Kay Hanson on May 1, 1966 in Reno, NV. They made their home in Columbus, NE where Ron worked as a computer programmer for the Nebraska Public Power District. Ron continued his career in the computer field with opportunities to work in Washington and Minnesota, and eventually settled at Chamberlain, SD, working at St. Josephs Indian School before becoming the Executive Director for Dakota Indian Foundation before retiring in the spring of 2012.

Ron loved the warm summers in South Dakota. His passion had always been gardening, and the 3 acres that he and Kay lived on south of Chamberlain allowed him to grow fabulous gardens year after year. He also took great pride in his rose garden. Another one of Ron's favorite activities was spending time with his many grandchildren. It was very common for Grandpa to have a "little shadow" working with him in the garden or riding with him on the garden tractor as he mowed the grass.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife, Kay of

Chamberlain; his children Tim Kjonegaard and wife Terri of Poway, CA; Lisa Van Meter and husband Spencer of Leesburg, VA; and Craig Kjonegaard and wife, Angela of Sioux Falls, SD; grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Mildred Kjonegaard; two brothers, Kenney and Merle; two sisters, Lucille and Carol; and an infant son, Scott.

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DeRoy Gregg

PONCA, Neb. — DeRoy K. Gregg, 88, of Ponca, Nebraska, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015, at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at the First United Methodist Church in Ponca with the Rev. Lori Kentner officiating.

Visitation with the family

present will be held from 1 p.m. until the service time at the church on Saturday.

Private family burial will be held at Silver Ridge Cemetery at a later date with military rites by the Ponca American Legion Post 117.

Arrangements are under the direction of Mohr Funeral Home in Ponca.

Gladys Sullivan

Gladys Sullivan, 91, of Elk Point, passed away Thursday Feb. 5, 2015 at Prairie Estates Care Center in Elk Point, South Dakota.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home of Elk Point, South Dakota.

Tonight's Special • 5-9 pm
All you can eat \$10.95
Shrimp
Yesterday's Cafe

IN REMEMBRANCE

Kenneth Feilmeier
10:30 AM, Saturday
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Hartington

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME and
CREMATION SERVICE



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