

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON —	WAYS AND MEANS	•
The meeting was called to order by	BILL BUNTEN Chairperson	_ at
12:20 XXX./p.m. on Tuesday, April 5	, 1983 in room <u>514-S</u> of the Cap	pitol.
All members were present except: Representative W	isdom excused	

Committee staff present: Marlin Rein -- Legislative Research

Lyn Entrikin Goering -- Legislative Research

Bill Gilmore -- Legislative Research Jim Wilson -- Office of the Revisor

LewJene Schneider -- Administrative Assistant Charlene Wilson -- Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Homer Cowan, Western Insurance Association L. M. Cornish, Domestic Insurance Association

Mr. Rather, Insurance Department Stan Koplik, Board of Regents Office

Ruth Sheet, Historical Society Tom Becher, Comptroller from Adjutant General's Office

Jim Maag, KBA Mark Bennett

Louis Chibira, Legislative Research Sherry Brown, Legislative Research

(Attachment I). Others present:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bunten at 12:20 p.m.

The Chairman announced that there would be no 8:00 a.m. meeting tomorrow and that the committee would meet upon the first adjournment of the House.

Senate Bill No. 400 -- "An Act concerning scholarships for Kansas osteopathic students; relating to persons eligible to receive such scholarships; amending K.S.A. 1982 Supp. 74-3265 and repealing the existing section."

Stan Koplik was called upon by the Chairman to address the committee on SB 400. He indicated that this is a scholarship program for osteopathic students that they began administering in this current year. The proposed changed bill would not pose any great administrative hardships on the administration of the program. He pointed out that the proposal provides that the first 5 scholarships be awarded to students who have completed at least one year of study and this may possibly raise the question of compromising the original intent of the bill. The original intent being to provide a Kansas scholarships for students who study osteopathic medicine in exchange for a one year commitment in the practice of osteopathic medicine. If the scholarships are granted to students in the first year, the possibility exists that they would in turn give four years of service.

Senate Bill 406 -- "An Act concerning the state historical society; relating to purchase of property and casualty insurance on certain property; amending K.S.A. 74-4702 and K.S.A. 1982 Supp 75-4109 and repealing the existing sections.

The Chairman recognized Ruth Sheer to appear on behalf of the Historical Society on this bill. She indicated that this bill was requested to take care of a problem that they had experienced with legislation that was authorized last year to allow them money to buy the insurance to insure the artifacts belonging to the museum and at other historic locations across the state. She explained that when they had gotten ready to buy the insurance in 1983, they did not have the authority to do so in legislative language. This bill would clarify that problem and allow them to purchase the insurance.

Representative Louis moved that SB 406 be reported favorable for passage. Seconded by Representative Solbach. The motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE _	HOUSE	COMMITTEE ON		WAYS	AND	MEANS		
room <u>514-S</u> , Stateho	ouse, at <u>12:2</u>	0 XXXX/p.m. on _	Tuesday,	April	5		,	1983

Senate Bill No. 408 -- "An Act concerning the adjutant general; creating the armories and units general fees fund; prescribing the disposition of certain reimbursements and other receipts; authorizing rules and regulations for the administrations thereof."

The Chairman recognized Tom Becher to address the committee on this bill. He explained that the bill, as proposed, would provide the agency a means to receipt for reimbursements or other receipts from personnel at the station. It would provide them with a means of clarifying their accounting system. If this fund is established, it would show a zero expenditure limitation. In the coming years they would receipt for reimbursements for the utility costs for the rentals of the armories, reimbursements for excess KAN-SAN use, costs for replacement of awards and decorations and reimbursement for personal use of copiers.

Representative Arbuthnot moved that SB 408 be reported favorable for passage. Seconded by Representative Rolfs. The motion carried.

Senate Bill No. 143 -- "An Act concerning mineral interests; relating to reversion of certain unused interests."

Representative Heinemann briefed the bill for the committee. Representative Farrar commented on the amendment that had been made to the bill. SB 143 would provide that an interest in minerals would lapse and revert to the current surface owner if the mineral interest remained unused for a period of 20 years. The bill would provide a means of extinghishing unused mineral interests which have been severed from the surface ownership of land.

Representative Heinemann moved that SB 143 be reported favorable for passage as amended by the House committee. Seconded by Representative Farrar. The motion carried.

Senate Bill No. 248 -- "An Act relating to natural gas; concerning the flaring thereof; amending K.S.A. 55-102 and 55-702 and repealing the existing sections."

Representative Farrar explained the bill for the committee. He indicated that the bill had been drawn up to try and solve a problem where oil has been discovered and existing in the same location is gas. They can't produce the oil well because the gas has to be flared in order to reach the oil. He added that an amendment has been put on the bill that would specify that the gas be used for other purposes rather than just flaring it. This would give the State Corporation Commission flexibility, through rules and regulations, in managing the flaring of natural gas.

Representative Farrar moved that SB 248 be reported favorable for passage as amended by recommendation of the House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Seconded by Representative Heinemann. The motion carried.

Senate Bill No. 255 -- "An Act relating to inactive bank accounts of the state; concerning the interest to be paid thereon; amending K.S.A. 75-4210 and repealing the existing section."

Jim Maag appeared before the committee on SB 255. He expressed that the Kansas Bankers Association has officially endorsed this bill but they are requesting an amendment to the bill. That being, a change in the publication date from the Kansas Register to the Statute Books in order to make the notification easier and set it up so that they can start at the beginning of a quarterly period rather than in the midst of a quarterly period.

Representative Chronister moved to amend SB 255 on line 51 to read, "May 1, 1983 and its publication in the Kansas Register." Seconded by Representative Heinemann.

Representative Solbach made a substitute motion on line 51, predecing the period by inserting "and the first day of the first month commencing after such publication." Seconded by Representative Louis. The motion carried.

Representative Duncan moved that SB 255 be reported favorable for passage as amended. Seconded by Representative Louis. The motion carried. Page 2 of 4

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

room 514-S, Statehouse, at 12:20 XXX/p.m. on Tuesday, April 5 , 1983.

Senate Bill No. 398 -- "An Act concerning the Kansas all-sports hall of fame board of trustees; attaching the board to the state historical society for purposes of all budgeting, purchasing and related management functions; amending K.S.A. 74-2906a and repealing the existing section."

Sherry Brown explained the bill and indicated that it had been drawn up at the request of the Governor to implement his recommendation with respect to the Department of Administration's budget and the Historical Society's budget. It would transfer the administrative authority for the All-sports Hall of Fame from the Department of Administration to the State Historical Society. The reason for this transfer is that it is felt that the Historical Society is more familiar with the types of activities of the All-sports Hall of Fame. She further commented that the Senate had amended the bill to provide that the All-sports Hall of Fame should be located in Douglas County, as it presently does. They wanted to make it clear that the intent of the bill was to transfer only administrative authority and not to transfer the location in any manner.

Representative Dyck moved that SB 398 be reported favorable for passage. Seconded by Representative Rolfs. The motion carried.

Senate Bill No. 412 -- "An Act relating to the state fire marshal; concerning the levy paid by fire insurance companies for maintaining the department of state fire marshal; amending K.S.A. 75-1508 and repealing the existing section."

Louis Chabira was recognized by the Chairman to review the provisions of this bill for the committee. He indicated that this bill would implement the Governor's recommendation on helping out the Fire Marshal funding problem. It would increase the current levy on the fire insurance premium tax from a maximum of .75% to 1.75%. The Governor's recommendation is based on 1.25%. The additional .50% is intended to allow for increases in future years should they become necessary, without the need for additional legislation. The bill would raise approximately \$331,000.00 for every.25% increase. Mr. Chabira added that this has been 20% fee fund and they are just about at the \$2 million maximum so any additional revenues that come into the fund would be available for expenditure. The plan is to allow the balance of this fund to build up until approximately FY88.

The House subcommittee has recommended that the maximum be set at 1.25% rather than the 1.75%. He further informed the committee that a similar bill, SB 427, is currently in the Senate and if that bill were to pass it would have an impact on SB 412. That bill abolishes the Fire Marshal Fee Fund and would require expenditures for the Fire Marshal to be spent of the state general fund and would further provide that any of the insurance premium taxes would be credited directly to the general fund. This would eliminate the need for any cash flow and it would seem that the amount of the tax levy could be reduced due to the fact that since the fund didn't exist, you wouldn't need to keep building up the balances in it.

Representative Louis was recognized by the Chairman to explain the amendment proposed by the subcommittee. Representative Louis moved to change line 31 from "1.75% to "1.25%". Representative Farrar seconded. Following come committee discussion, the motion carried.

Mr. Mark Bennett appeared in opposition to SB 412.

Homer Cowan was next to address the committee in opposition to SB 412. He spoke to the retalitory provision that had been discussed in earlier testimony. He explained that retaliatory was originally brought about to create equal parity between companies to give each company a fair place in the market. In retaliatory the rate of another state's taxes are figured against the same premium dollar on Kansas tax and then the highest of the two is what is paid. Therefore, as Kansas increases anything in a tax base for Kansas they pay for it almost four time in the state of Missouri, as an example. Missouri was sited as an example due to the fact that this is where they get hit the hardest. He made reference to a chart which was provided for the committee. (Attachment II). He urged the committee to explore the possibilities that there is a better way to handle this problem rather than a penalty type of law. He also made reference to a letter that had been sent to several members of the Page 3 of 4

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON	WAYS AND MEANS
room 514-S, Statehouse, at 12:20 XXX/p.m. on _	Tuesday, April 5 , 1983
committee containing a possible amendm	ent.(Attachment III).

L. M. Cornish was recignized by the Chairman to appear on SB 412. He appeared in opposition to the bill. One other retaliatory aspect was brought out in his testimony. He stated that it does have an impact upon the taxes received by the state of Kansas. When taxes go up on insurance companies in the state that reduces the amount of retaliatory tax paid by the other states into Kansas.

Mr. Rather appeared on behalf of the Insurance Commissioner's Office. He stated that the effect of reducing the levy from 1.75% to 1.25% would reduce the general revenues fund by approximately \$50,000.00 from the retaliatory effect.

The Chairman indicated that action on this bill would be deferred until a later meeting in order to allow the committee members time to look further into the proposed amendment made by Mr. Cowan.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

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THE LESTERN INDEMNITY COMPANY, INC.

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INSURANCE COMPANIES

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HOMER H. COWAN, JR. VICE PRESIDENT—PUBLIC AFFAIRS

March 31, 1983

Senator Paul Hess Room 123-S State Capitol Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: SB 412

Dear Paul:

You are already aware of my strong opposition to SB 412.

This morning I reviewed this matter with Mr. F. C. McCurley, President of The Western and Mr. T. M. Mayhew, Vice Chairman of the Board. They have instructed me to reinforce our position in the strongest manner possible. They now view this bill as a "penalty" to the state's largest domestic insurance company, a penalty for being domiciled in Kansas.

Paul, hopefully you will seriously consider what I will hereinafter write. Unfortunately this communication will not be short and I know the demands upon your time and we are late in the session, but I still request your patience.

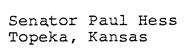
First, we are appreciative that for the past 6 years when a bill similar to SB 412 has been introduced, both the House and the Senate have taken notice of the retaliatory impact upon The Western and have killed all such bills. I know you have been an ally of ours whenever you could. I'm most appreciative of this past support.

Secondly, we are most cognizant that this legislature is forced to look at and find solutions to the state's financial problems. As a responsible corporate citizen, we want to be of assistance to the overall problem, not a hindrance.

Although we know that historically the insurance industry promoted and supported the retaliatory law concept, we have long ago concluded that the law has outlived its usefullness or, at best, has created more problems than it solved. This statement can best be demonstrated when we can show that SB 412 will cost The Western approximately \$31,000 more in Kansas tax, but nearly a quarter of a million dollars more to other states. \$68,000.00 more to the single state of Missouri!



Atch. II





Page 2 -

There has to be a better way to raise revenues than to impose that kind of penalty upon a domestic industry!

There has to be a solution to the retaliatory problem. Unfortunately, time is too short in this session to make a proper study. For the future, I would propose that we (the industry) meet and try to come up with an overall solution.

For the immediate situation, I am suggesting the following amendment to SB 412 ...

Each fire insurance company subject to this act shall collect the levy of 1.75% as a surcharge of premium, assessments or other charges made by it for insurance coverage provided to its policyholders on risks located in this state whether such charges are made or designated as premiums, assessments or otherwise. Said premium surcharge shall be collected by the insuror from its policyholders at the same time and in the same manner that its premium or other charge for the insurance coverage is collected. However, no insuror or its agent shall be entitled to any portion of any premium surcharge as a fee or commission for its collection.

What the amendment above does do is bring the tax down "below the line" and stated separately on the policy as a surcharge to the premium. (It does not necessarily have to be stated separately on the policy.)

With the statute stating that the surcharge shall be collected directly from the policyholders, it is not a tax for the privilege of doing business in the state and is therefore not subject to retaliatory tax. Several states have recently passed similar type laws and the mechanism, as it is contained in the amendment, is designed expressly to circumvent the retaliatory penalties on domestic companies.

Another possible solution to this problem would be to make a \$1.00 or more assessment against each fire insurance policy written on property located within the state. Again, this has to be in the form of a surtax. The word "surtax" and the words "collected from the insured" are the key to escape the retaliatory provisions.

Since The Western is, for all intent and purposes, the only domestic company hurt badly, it seems ludicrous to try to design a law for our protection only. (Farmers Insurance does have a retaliatory problem, but not as severe as ours.) Nevertheless



Senator Paul Hess Topėka, Kansas

Page 3 -

it also seems ludicrous to impose a tax on your domestic industries that results in a quarter of a million dollars to other states and only \$30,000 to Kansas.

Basically, taxes are within the expense factor used in ratemaking. Thus the real loser is the policyholder, whether in Missouri or Kansas. Retaliatory tax escalates the bottom line premium. It would seem then, that we, as a domestic company, should not be so concerned.

Unfortunately, although allowable in rates, such recoupment is not recovered for well over a year. More important, however, is the fact that to remain competitive, we cannot in some states recoup it at all. We lose it one way or another by virtue of higher rates than our competition, thus losing our market or keeping it out of rates to stay competitive. In the latter event, it is an item we must absorb as a direct company loss.

As you know, there are several other questions involved in the Fire Marshal's Tax as well as the Firemen's Relief Tax. There are problems with part of this tax going to Kansas University. It would seem that the entire problem should be studied and the entire mechanism overhauled to be in the best interest of all the citizens of Kansas. Again, I know time is of the essence.

I do not know what you or anybody else that understands our problem can do under the existing circumstances of time and necessity, but I would be remiss in not pleading for consideration of this unfair tax imposed.

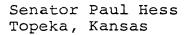
I am sending a copy of this letter to just about anyone I can think of in the hope that everyone involved will be aware of the serious nature of this tax and its consequences to a corporate citizen that already contributes to the economic growth of the state.

I am attaching a breakdown of our retaliatory taxes. At 1.75% our additional retaliatory tax is \$242,834.51. At 1.25% our additional retaliatory tax would be in excess of \$120,000.00.

Very zruly yours,

HOMER COWAN, JR Vice President/

hc:ph





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P. S. Since dictating the above, I am told that SB 412 has already been sent to the House. Accordingly I am sending a copy of this letter to Representative Bunten, Chairman of the House Ways and Means and members of his committee.

CC: All Members House Ways and Means Committee

All Members
Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Richard Harper

.POSITION PAPER

OF

THE WESTERN CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY
THE WESTERN INDEMNITY COMPANY
THE WESTERN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

ON

SENATE BILL 412

SUBJECT:

To increase from .75% to 1.75% the tax levied to maintain the department of state fire marshal.

DISCUSSION:

This bill will produce an additional tax from The Western Insurance Companies for the department of the state fire marshall of \$31,673.94.

Every state has a retaliatory tax law. Very simply stated each state says, "Whatever you charge my companies, we are going to charge your companies".

For example, if this bill is passed, we will pay Kansas \$31,673.94 additional; we will pay Missouri \$68,688.68 additional.

On a countrywide basis this bill will cost \$242,834.51!

CONCLUSION:

While we recognize the need for additional tax, we strongly feel that a tax with retaliatory effect is like a <u>direct penalty</u> against The Western as a Kansas domestic company. There has to be a better way to finance the fire marshal's office than by the proposal of Senate Bill 412.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

THE WESTERN CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY
THE WESTERN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
THE WESTERN INDEMNITY COMPANY

x: Ttomulacu

*HOMER COWAN, JR - VICE PRESIDENT

*L./J./SMITH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY

*Registered Lobbyist

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