

Approved: 2-22-93
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Duane Goossen at 3:30 p.m. on February 18, 1993 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Lowther (excused)
Representative Smith (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Joyce Harralson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Snowbarger

Others attending: See attached list

Representative Bowden addressed the committee on behalf of the subcommittee formed to determine the definition of a pre-kindergartner in House Bill 2060. Representative Bowden made a motion to amend House Bill 2060, lines 21 and 25, striking the words "infants and toddlers", replacing them with "all children who have not yet reached the age of four." Representative Kline seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Bowden made a motion for the passage of House Bill 2060 as amended. Representative Blumenthal seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Vince Snowbarger addressed the committee regarding House Bill 2316 concerning liability insurance for teachers. (Attachment #1) He stated the bill would provide a source of liability insurance for teachers. He said many teachers are not have insurance sources due to lack of home ownership or membership in professional organizations.

This would provide all employees with a teaching certificate to have liability insurance. Premiums would be paid by the teacher. A fund would be established to receive premiums and pay for policies. This would provide coverage at a reasonable cost to all teachers due to pooling of members.

Representative Snowbarger suggested that House Bill 2314 would be a better bill that would provide immunity for teachers while performing their professional responsibilities.

Representative Reinhardt made a motion for the passage of House Bill 2481 and its placement on the consent calendar. Representative Pottorff seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 3:30 pm, February 22, 1993, in Room 519-S.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: House Education

DATE: 2/18/93

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VINCENT K. SNOWBARGER
MAJORITY LEADER

TESTIMONY BEFORE
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ON
H.B. 2316

H.B. 2316 is designed to make liability insurance available to all teachers required to hold a teaching certificate in the State of Kansas.

In today's society, professionals of all kinds are being sued. Teachers also face this threat. It is in this atmosphere, we are asking our teachers to do more and more. We generally feel that these requirements are for the educational benefit of our children. However, it has increased their responsibilities and, therefore, the potential liabilities for our teachers.

Some level of professional liability insurance may currently be available through most homeowner's insurance policies. It is also available through various professional organizations. However, many teachers are unaware of these sources. In addition, if you do not already have homeowner's insurance or are not a member of the professional organization, the insurance may not be available, at least not at an affordable price.

This bill provides for the establishment of a group liability insurance plan through the commissioner of education. The plan would be available to all teachers required to have a certificate. The cost of the insurance would be paid by the teacher. A fund would be created to receive the premiums and to pay for the policies.

HE
Attachment 1-1
2-18-93

I think providing group liability insurance to all teachers at a reasonable cost is a service the state can provide to our teachers, and, hopefully, we can help them cope with the threats of litigation they potentially face.

HE
Attachment 1-2
2-18-93