

Approved: 3/21/94
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alicia Salisbury at 8:00 a.m. on March 17, 1994 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Members present: Senators Burke, Downey, Feleciano, Gooch, Harris, Kerr, Petty, Ranson, Reynolds, Salisbury, Steffes and Vidricksen

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes
Mary Jane Holt, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative John Toplikar
Representative Jack Wempe
Representative Barbara W. Ballard
Representative Janice Pauls
Representative Jim Garner
Representative Thomas A. Robinett, Jr.
Jennifer Ford, student
Mark Matese, Youth and Adult Services, SRS
Art Brown, Mid America Lumbermen's Association
Chris McKenzie, League of Kansas Municipalities

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing on HB 2966 - Dissemination of economic development information

Representative John Toplikar testified HB 2966 amends the mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing to include coordination of the efforts of state agencies and local economic development groups to the extent that such efforts relate to the implementation of a comprehensive long-term economic development strategy. The bill also explicitly includes, as part of the agency's mission, the dissemination of information concerning economic development programs available in Kansas. The agency would be required to make available audio visual and written materials describing economic development programs to local Chambers of Commerce, economic development organizations, banks and public libraries. He stated the Department of Commerce estimates the cost to be \$30,000-\$60,000.

Representative Wempe informed the Committee this bill will encourage the Department of Commerce and Housing to increase their effort to disseminate economic development information across the state. He stated it is important to make people throughout the state aware of the state programs that are available.

There being no other conferees the public hearing on HB 2966 was closed.

Hearing on HB 2948 - Neighborhood infrastructure improvement & youth job creation act

Representative Barbara W. Ballard testified HB 2948 would provide community work opportunities for low income high school students across the state during the summer months and after school. Students would receive payments for labor and related costs associated with the repair and renovation of essential and/or historic community facilities. Under HB 2948 local units of government, nonprofit organizations or Native American tribes would be able to apply to the Secretary of Human Resources for state grants.

Representative Ballard said she will request \$100,000 from the Appropriations Committee for the program. She also envisions partnerships with businesses and organizations, see attachment 1.

Representative Janice L. Pauls testified the program is to be administered by the Secretary of Human Resources who will provide grants to non-profit private organizations, units of local government, or a native

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m. on March 17, 1994.

American Indian tribe. No more than 25% of the grant may be used for administrative costs and equipment. The bill is an important crime prevention piece, as it will help youth to learn job skills and to improve their own neighborhoods, see attachment 2

In response to questions about workers' compensation coverage, sponsors of the bill indicated that youth should be properly supervised in low risk jobs and properly covered for any injury. In response to a question about the proper state agency to administer this program, sponsors replied that another administrative entity could substitute for the Department of Human Resources.

Jennifer Ford, student, Lawrence, testified in support of HB 2948. She states the youth who participate in the program will not only benefit financially but also through the acquisition of work experience and the development of a sense of responsibility, self-discipline, self-reliance, and increased self-worth. The community-at-large will not only benefit from the program by the tangible infrastructure improvements but also by the intangible positive ramifications of community commitment in youth, see attachment 3.

Mark Matese, Youth and Adult Services, Social and Rehabilitation Services, delivered testimony for Carolyn Risley Hill, Commissioner of Youth and Adult Services, in favor of HB 2948. He stated this bill is a positive step in the search for solutions that address juvenile crime and should be considered a model prevention program, see attachment 4.

Art Brown, Mid-America Lumbermen's Association, said he appeared as a proponent of HB 2948. He said it is refreshing to see legislation that promotes building the self-worth of an individual by creating meaningful jobs and giving many in society an opportunity to have a feeling of pride in accomplishment that helps create stronger communities. Given the passage of this bill, there has to be some way to tie the "Lumber Grows on Trees" program into the local unit so that the seedlings can be made available as a job creation stimulus and thus be one of the components of meaningful work that this bill creates, see attachment 5.

Chris McKenzie, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities, appeared in support of HB 2948 on behalf of the 540 member cities of the League of Kansas Municipalities. He urged the Committee to give the Department of Human Resources maximum flexibility in implementing the program, and to have the program in place for use this summer. One way this could be achieved would be to allow the Department to administer the program initially without rules and regulations, see attachment 6.

Representative Jim D. Garner, see attachment 7, and Representative Thomas A. Robinett, Jr., see attachment 8, submitted written testimony in support of SB 2948.

There being no other conferees, the public hearing on HB 2948 was closed.

Senator Gooch moved and Senator Steffes seconded to adopt the minutes of March 16, 1994. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 1994.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 3/17/94

[illegible]

BARBARA W. BALLARD
 REPRESENTATIVE, FORTY-FOURTH DISTRICT
 DOUGLAS COUNTY
 1532 ALVAMAR DRIVE
 LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66047
 (913) 841-0063



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 MEMBER: EDUCATION
 GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
 AND ELECTIONS
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 STATE CAPITOL ROOM 272-W
 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
 (913) 296-7650
 LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE
 1-800-432-3924

Testimony on House Bill 2948
 Before Senate Commerce Committee

Barbara W. Ballard
 March 17, 1994

Thank you, Madame Chair and members of the Committee.

Painting bridges, repairing and renovating public buildings, erecting or replacing traffic control signs, repairing public housing units, cleaning up parks and playgrounds, installing ramps for individuals with disabilities and weatherizing community facilities...

HB 2948 would provide these kinds of community work opportunities for high school students across the state during the summer months and after school. Students would receive payments for labor and related costs associated with the repair and renovation of essential and/or historic community facilities. I stress essential because I believe meaningful projects will help to build self-esteem in our young people, and create a sense of community pride. It is important that our youth feel they are a vital part of the community if we want them to have pride and ownership in what happens to the community.

Under HB 2948 local units of government, nonprofit organizations or Native American tribes would be able to apply to the Secretary of Human Resources for state grants. I envision several "pilot" programs around the state that would include rural, urban and middle size communities. What is the fiscal note? I would make a request to the Appropriations Committee for \$100,000 for this statewide program. I also envision partnerships with businesses and organizations.

This bill would provide jobs for low income youths as a pro-active way to fight crime. It would give students the opportunity to earn money, get work experience, develop skills and get references for future jobs. HB 2948 would be an investment in our future generation.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask you to support HB 2948.

Barbara W. Ballard
Commerce
3/17/94

Attachment 1-1



ECKAN Inc.

East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation

203 West Third
P.O. Box 110
Ottawa, Kansas 66067
913-242-7450
Fax: 913-242-0305

State Representative Barbara Ballard
Room 272 West
Topeka Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612

February 23, 1994

Dear Representative Ballard,

East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation (ECKAN), an agency dedicated towards the improvement of the citizens in Kansas, offers this letter of support for House Bill No. 2948, "Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvement and Youth Job Creation Act." The scope of this legislation is very consistent with ECKAN's policy to generate activities for the betterment of the community, as demonstrated by our involvement with the city of Ottawa's successful Summer Youth program of 1993. Not only shall this act provide Kansas youths the opportunity to earn wages, but shall also provide a deterrent to potential juvenile delinquency. It is our hope that you are successful in passing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard Jackson
Executive Director

An organization dedicated to meeting the needs of low income families in
Anderson, Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Lyon, Miami and Osage counties

An Equal Opportunity Program

JANICE L. PAULS
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 102

TOPEKA ADDRESS:
STATE CAPITOL—272-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
(913) 296-7657

HUTCHINSON ADDRESS:
1634 N. BAKER
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501
(316) 663-8961



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

**Testimony before the
Senate Commerce Committee
Regarding
House Bill 2948
by
Representative Janice L. Pauls
District 102**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: JUDICIARY
LABOR AND INDUSTRY
TRANSPORTATION
JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS

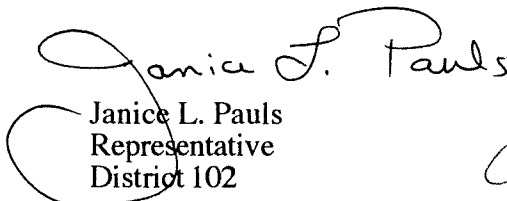
Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this bill to the committee. HB 2948 establishes a neighborhood infrastructure improvement and youth job creation act.

The cost of the program will depend on how much money is appropriated to the project, and probably should be set up as a pilot project in at least one rural community, and one urban community.

The program is administered by the Secretary of Human Resources who will provide grants to non-profit private organizations, units of local government, or a native American Indian tribe. No more than 25% of the grant may be used for administrative costs and equipment.

The purpose of the program is to provide summer jobs for high school students below a certain income. The jobs will be neighborhood improvements such as a repair of public housing or streets.

This bill is an important crime prevention piece as it will both help youth to learn job skills and improve their own neighborhoods. The bill has forty-six co-sponsors, and I believe it will receive enthusiastic public support.


Janice L. Pauls
Representative
District 102

Commerce
3/17/94

Attachment 2

March 17, 1994

Chairman Salisbury and Committee:

I am a junior at the University of Kansas studying political science and religious studies. My particular academic and practical interest is in the building of community and the development of social capital--the features of social organization, such as networks, norms, and trust, that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. It is with these interests in mind that I am voicing my support of HB 2948.

Unemployment is a demoralizing experience for many young people. It also undermines the rest of society because young, unemployed persons constitute a sizeable portion of the criminal population. The neighborhood infrastructure improvement and youth job creation act would remove unemployed youths from the streets; it would provide them, often for the first time, with legitimate and meaningful work; and it would help protect them from being enticed into crime. Above all, the program would provide a way to develop the character of those who participate, aside from whatever skills they might acquire. From personal experience, I know that intrinsically meaningful work experiences can have a profound effect on one's personal development and on one's perception of the world. Indeed, much of the potential impact of HB 2948 lies in the psychic development, in enhancing the individual's self respect, sense of worth, and outlook on the future. The building of moral commitment to community in our youth is critical to social stability and the maintenance of order and experience is the most effective teacher.

The youth who participate in the program will not only benefit financially but also through the acquisition of work experience and the development of a sense of responsibility, self-discipline, self-reliance, and increased self-worth. The community-at-large will not only benefit from the program by the tangible infrastructure improvements but also by the intangible positive ramifications of community commitment in youth. Everyone benefits whenever the government sponsors programs which encourage and develop the virtues of hard work, responsibility, cooperation, and other qualities which aid in efforts to build community and improve economic productivity.

HB 2948 is an innovative, pro-active government program which focuses on the citizen as a participant in a government program, not as a client. The ultimate goal of any social program should be an empowered and activated populace--not the creation of new dependencies. The neighborhood infrastructure improvement and youth job creation act meets this standard. The program provides for physical capital improvements while at the same time encouraging the production of valuable social capital. That is money well spent. If approved, HB 2948 will have significant long-term positive effects on individual Kansas youth and Kansans as a whole.

Thank you for your time!



Jennifer Ford
1723 E. 1100 Road
Lawrence, KS 66049

Commence
3/17/94

Attachment 2

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
Donna L. Whiteman, Secretary

Commerce Committee
Testimony on House Bill 2948

March 17, 1994

SRS Mission Statement

"The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services empowers individuals and families to achieve and sustain independence and to participate in the rights, responsibilities and benefits of full citizenship by creating conditions and opportunities for change, by advocating for human dignity and worth, and by providing care, safety and support in collaboration with others".

TITLE

An act creating the neighborhood infrastructure improvement and youth job creation act.

TESTIMONY

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, on behalf of Secretary Whiteman, I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2948. This bill is a positive step in the search for solutions that address juvenile crime and should be considered a model prevention program.

BACKGROUND

Jobs provide an opportunity for youth to contribute to the community, to develop self esteem, and to learn important life skills. With the establishment of HB 2948 and the neighborhood infrastructure improvement and youth job creation act, Kansas youth will have an excellent opportunity to participate in projects which will benefit the neighborhoods they live in and maybe avoid the pitfalls of the streets. While they are working on projects through local governments, non-profit organizations or Native American tribes, they will see the constructive results of their work rather than the destructive results of crime and gangs. Research shows jobs can provide an out for youth who have been involved with gangs.

EFFECT OF PASSAGE

The cost of a prevention-type program is minimal as compared to the staggering costs of crime in the United States. According to the Urban Policy Institute Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, violent crime costs \$425 billion a year -- \$125 billion more than the defense budget. In addition, the institute estimates that it costs over \$50 billion for various forms of urban decay, including job loss, resident disinvestment and flight. We must begin to redirect our resources to programs that will assist our youth. Real prevention programs will assist us in creating positive changes and help us in establishing productive, contributing members of our communities, our youth.

Commerce
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Attachment 4-1

RECOMMENDATION

The department fully supports efforts to provide Kansas youth an opportunity for positive, productive and responsible choices.

Carolyn Risley Hill, Commissioner
Youth and Adult Services
Department of Social and
Rehabilitation Services

(913) 296-3284



800 WESTPORT ROAD • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64111
816/931-2102 FAX 816/931-4617

MID-AMERICA LUMBERMENS ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

March 17, 1994

House Bill #2948

Room 123-S

Madame Chair, members of the Senate Commerce Committee, it is my pleasure to appear before you as a proponent for House Bill #2948. My name is Art Brown and I represent the Kansas lumber dealers.

This is one of those bills that is really hard to find a downside to. Given the climate in society towards productiveness of our citizens to a better sense of accomplishment, rather than just giving handouts to many of the disadvantaged, it is refreshing to see some legislation come along that promotes building the self-worth of an individual by creating meaningful jobs and giving many in society an opportunity to have a "pride in accomplishment" feeling that helps create stronger communities.

We come as a proponent because we feel we have a worthwhile program for our lumber dealers that can tie into this program, if passed by the Legislature.

In 1990, we started a "Lumber Grows on Trees" program. The format was that our dealers purchased seedlings, and either resold them at cost or gave them away to various community groups for planting on Arbor Day (the last Friday in April).

The response from church groups, the Boy Scouts, civil groups and the like was enthusiastically received, to say the least. We received national recognition for this effort and passed the format



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3/17/94

on to our National Association. We are sorry to say their efforts fell short of the success we had obtained on a regional level and so are going to endorse and administer this program for 1994 and every year beyond, as long as the response stays positive.

The point is this. Given the passage of this bill, there has to be some way we can tie this activity into the local unit so that these seedlings can be made available as a job creation stimulus and thus be one of the components of meaningful work that this bill creates.

Is the planting of trees meaningful and rewarding work? As many of you know, the Los Angeles area was decimated by the devastation of the aftermath of the Rodney King riots. The United States Department of Agriculture implemented a program for many disadvantaged youths for the planting of trees in the city and to take them out to a National Forest to build firebreaks. If you have never seen this done before, just believe that this is very hard work. The Mayor of Los Angeles, in a report he made to the community, stated that this was the most successful and enjoyable program that the government sponsored for these disadvantaged youths.

Obviously, I am addressing this issue as a representative of the industry, not the lumber dealers, which is a part of my responsibilities. We also feel that if folks see that, yes indeed, trees really do grow, they can get a better perspective of the cycle of planting, growth, harvesting and re-planting. For reasons we cannot understand, people do not seem to comprehend this cycle which occurs in our industry.

If I may digress for a second and draw on a personal experience, I was on the staff of a Boy Scout camp for three summers. I really did see firsthand how many of these kids got a real kick out of being around nature and working

for their various honors and the feeling of accomplishment they got by earning these honors. They really got a good shot of self-esteem in doing some of the simplest projects.

As I stated at the beginning of my testimony, this is one of those bills you can easily feel good about. We hope that the funding is there to at least give it a chance to get off the ground and see where it takes us. We would stand eager to support the communities in the aforementioned activities if called upon to do so and get our dealers in touch with the proper personnel to work out a program.

We urge the favorable passage of HB 2948. I stand ready to answer any questions or address any comments you may have on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.



**League
of Kansas
Municipalities**

PUBLISHERS OF KANSAS GOVERNMENT JOURNAL 112 S.W. 7TH TOPEKA, KS 66603-3896 (913) 354-9565 FAX (913) 354-4186

TO: Senate Commerce Committee

FROM: Chris McKenzie, Executive Director *Chris McKenzie*

DATE: March 17, 1994

RE: Support for HB 2948

It is with pleasure that I appear today in support of HB 2948 on behalf of the 540 member cities of the League of Kansas Municipalities. This measure would create a much needed jobs program to create employment opportunities for at-risk youth.

For many years cities have been the main source of public summer job opportunities at the community level. Federal funding for summer jobs programs comes and goes, but local support can usually be counted on. For example, last summer the City of Ottawa gave up waiting for federal assistance and created a program of its own with some limited support from local businesses. With the property tax lid in place and other demands for local funds, however, the City will not be able to afford as large a program this summer. This is where the program authorized by HB 2948 could come into play.

It is not necessary to emphasize the connection between this measure and the joint state-local concern about crime prevention. The connection is an obvious and strong one.

We would urge the Committee to give the Department of Human Resources maximum flexibility in implementing this program. If it is possible to have the program in place for use this summer, it would be desirable. One way this could be achieved would be to allow the Department to administer the program initially without formal rules and regulations.

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend approval of HB 2948.

*Commerce
3/17/94
Attachment 6*

STATE OF KANSAS

JIM D. GARNER
REPRESENTATIVE 11TH DISTRICT
601 EAST 12TH
P.O. BOX 538
COFFEYVILLE, KS 67337
(316) 251 1864
(316) 251 5950

TOPEKA ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL RM 284 W
TOPEKA KS 66612 1504
(913) 296-7699
1 800 432 3924



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
RANKING DEMOCRAT: JUDICIARY
MEMBER: TRANSPORTATION
LABOR AND INDUSTRY
KANSAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL
CRIMINAL LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NCSL STATE AND FEDERAL ASSEMBLY
LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HOUSE BILL 2948

Madam Chair and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2948. If passed, HB 2948 would be one of the best anti-crime measures enacted by the 1994 legislature. HB 2948 would create grants for summer and afterschool jobs program for high school kids and put them to work on community facility improvement projects.

To have a meaningful response to crime we must offer a comprehensive approach -- an approach that is tough on those who commit crimes and is also smart on preventing crime in the first place. This bill provides a vital part in crime prevention.

By making a small investment in youth job programs, we provide real alternatives to crime and gang activities. Crime must be combated at the local community level. This bill allows communities to develop afterschool and summer programs that address the problems facing the youth in their community.

Giving young people alternatives to criminal activity can multiply the effectiveness of the existing law enforcement system. For every kid not committing crimes, police can concentrate more resources on hard-core criminals. Moreover, much success in crime prevention is shown by exposing kids to new environments and activities. The December 13, 1993 issue of Business Week included a very informative article entitled "The Economics of Crime." That article mentioned studies of the federal Job Corps programs, a similiar residential jobs for youth program. The article stated that the studies "show a big drop in arrests for program participants." (pg. 79).

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Attachment 7-1

If the 1994 Legislature is to make a meaningful impact on crime, we must include passage of crime prevention measures. HB 2948 would be a great step forward in the direction of crime prevention.

Again, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to express my support for HB 2948. I urge the committee to take favorable action on this bill.

THOMAS A. ROBINETT, JR.
REPRESENTATIVE, TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT
9004 W. 115TH TERRACE
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66210
(913) 451-2484
OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, 182-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
(913) 296-7637



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY
JOINT COMMITTEE, PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS
& BENEFITS

TESTIMONY OF REP. TOM ROBINETT
SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
HB 2948
MARCH 16, 1994

Madam Chair and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon in support of HB 2948.

As you all know, one of the points of emphasis this session that has excited the press, our constituents and all of us is the war on crime. Bill after bill has been drafted, introduced, studied and worked already -- a good number of them will pass and become law. Unfortunately, these bills too often miss the mark -- they deal with crimes and punishing people for committing crimes. They are reactionary, negative and do very little to affect behavior; they produce nothing that we can take pride in.

HB 2948 offers a means to affect the lives of young people in a positive manner, to reach them before it becomes necessary to simply decide on how they should be punished. The funny thing about this process is that not only do we help these young people by providing jobs, teaching personal responsibility and creating pride and community spirit, we all get something, too. Our neighborhoods are revitalized as the infrastructure is enhanced and often restored or rebuilt, and, as a result of these efforts, our own community pride and spirit grows.

This is a relatively simple plan that takes a common sense approach toward helping our young people by creating a situation in which they can grow and accomplish something worthwhile and take pride in themselves and their work. In HB 2948 we have an opportunity to answer those critics who accuse us of ignoring the root of many of our problems -- the disenfranchised youth -- and spending all of our time and resources on the high-profile crime issues.

I urge you to redirect at least some of our energy to our own neighborhoods and build for the future of Kansas by recommending HB 2948 favorable for passage.

Commerce
3/17/94
Attachment 8