Approved: March 6, 1997

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alicia Salisbury at 8:00 a.m. on March 5, 1997 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Members present: Senators Salisbury, Barone, Brownlee, Feleciano, Gooch, Harris, Jordan, Ranson, Steffes, Steineger and Umbarger.

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department

Jerry Donaldson, Legislative Research Department

Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes Betty Bomar, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See attached list

<u>Upon motion by Senator Jordan, seconded by Senator Umbarger, the Minutes of the February 25, 1997 Meeting were unanimously approved.</u>

Fiscal notes on **SB 285 and 346** were distributed to the Committee. The Chair informed the Committee she questioned the Fiscal note on **SB 346.** Attachments 1 and 2

SB 346 - Supplemental workers compensation advisory council recommendations

The Chair informed the Committee SB 346 was recommended unanimously by the Advisory Council. The Committee reviewed SB 346, section by section, and discussed the proposed changes in the legislation.

Senator Barone moved, seconded by Senator Jordan, that <u>SB 346</u> be amended on Page 13, Line 24 by striking the words "without competitive bid". The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Senator Harris moved, seconded by Senator Brownlee, that SB 346 be further amended on Page 15, Line 12 following the "period (.)", by inserting a provision that: "thereafter, the fund shall have an additional sixty days to submit its evidence." The motion was approved na voice vote.

Senator Harris moved, seconded by Senator Ranson, that **SB 346** be further amended on Page 17, line 24 by striking the word "twenty" and inserting in lieu thereof, "at least ten". The motion was approved by a voice vote.

The Chair informed the Committee further action on **SB 346** will be concluded after the bill has been returned to the Committee. It is presently in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Written testimony from Paula S. Greathouse, Staff Attorney, Workers Compensation Fund, was distributed to the Committee. <u>Attachment 3</u>

SB 285 - Sole proprietorship without employees exempt from workers compensation coverage

Senator Brownlee, author of **SB 285**, advised the Committee there were difficulties with the definition of "self employed sub contractor". Senator Brownlee asked that the Bill be held in Committee.

SB 347 - Workers compensation reform

Senator Harris suggested to the Committee that all sections of SB 347 except Sections 1 and 3 be

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m. on March 5, 1997.

amended into $SB\ 346$ inasmuch as the bills amend the same section of the statute. Senator Harris presented a balloon which outlines the proposed amendments to $SB\ 347$. The committee discussed the proposed amendments pertaining to claimants' attorney fees. Attachment 4

Stephen W. Durrell, Assistant Attorney General, Fraud and Abuse Investion Section, Division of Workers Compensation, submitted two statistical records distributed to the Committee. 1) targets of investigation for calendar year 1996, and 2) record of fraud or abuse investigations by county for fiscal year 1996. Attachment 5

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 1997.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: march 5 1997

∩ NAME	REPRESENTING
TO GRANT	(CC)
Terry Leathernan	KCEI
Faula Greathouse	KIR
Seresa Menaner	State Jarm
Kigh Mekee	KLA
Est BROWN	mid . Im Sum Bernow se.
Bill Curtis	Ks Assoc of School Bds
JANET STUBBS	Ks. Bldg. IND. ASSN.
Alene Peraliell	KTLA.
Brod Smoot	AIA
Susan M. Baker	Hein + Weir
Dich Deance	The Coleman Co.
Day T. Detmens	DefA_DPS
HARRY BOSSI	DOA- DRS
Pat Morris	KAIA
Stephen Durvell	Apraner Gren,
Bire Janee	BOKING
JOSON PITSENBURGER	KCC
Logertrante	KGE

J.P. Small

KOCH INDUSTRIES, INC.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

	7
NAME	REPRESENTING
Jim Ne Hoff Wayn Marihy	Kansus AFL-CIO
wayn marky	11 11 11



DIVISION OF THE BUDGET Room 152-E State Capitol Building Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504 (913) 296-2436 FAX (913) 296-0231

February 18, 1997

Gloria M. Timmer Director

The Honorable Alicia Salisbury, Chairperson Senate Committee on Commerce Statehouse, Room 120-S Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Salisbury:

Bill Graves

Governor

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 285 by Senator Brownlee

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 285 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law requires contractors to provide workers compensation coverage to employees of subcontractors hired by the contractor. SB 285 would eliminate this requirement if the subcontractor is a sole proprietor and has no other employees.

There is estimated to be no fiscal impact to state agencies or local units of government with the passage of SB 285.

Sincerely,

Gloria M. Timmer

Director of the Budget

Glacia M. Simmer

Marc Lowe, Department of Human Resources cc:

Denate Commerce Committees March 5, 1997 Actachment 1



DIVISION OF THE BUDGET

Room 152-E

State Capitol Building

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

(913) 296-2436

FAX (913) 296-0231

February 27, 1997

Gloria M. Timmer Director

The Honorable Alicia Salisbury, Chairperson Senate Committee on Commerce Statehouse, Room 120-S Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Salisbury:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 346 by Senate Committee on Commerce

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 346 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 346 makes several changes to the Workers Compensation Act. The provisions of SB 346 are outlined below.

- 1. The bill would require administrative law judges for Workers Compensation hearings to extend the due date for the submission of evidence if all parties to the case agree to the extension.
- 2. The bill would require the Director of Workers Compensation to "revise" the schedule of maximum fees that can be charged for Workers Compensation health care services. Current law requires that the fee schedule be "reviewed" annually.
- 3. The bill specifies that if an employer provides benefits to an injured employee and the actual amount to be paid is subsequently reduced, the employer must request reimbursement within one year of the final award.

Denate Commuce Cammittee March 5, 1997

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Bill Graves Governor

- 4. The bill provides that all final orders, awards, or preliminary awards would be subject to review by the Workers Compensation Board. Current law allows "all" acts of administrative law judges to be reviewed by the Board.
- 5. SB 346 would allow the Director of Workers Compensation to contract with the Secretary of Health and Environment to collect medical data. The data collected would be used to assist in the Director's current responsibility of publishing a report on Workers Compensation claims. The report includes information on the cause of Workers Compensation claims, the cost of treating claimants and the effectiveness of the program to return injured employees to gainful employment.
- 6. The bill requires that the Workers Compensation Fund be impleaded 20 days prior to the first full hearing where any evidence is presented on the Workers Compensation claim.
- 7. Finally, the bill provides that a Workers Compensation assessment of less than \$10 would not have to be paid.

	Es	stimated State Fiscal	Impact	
	FY 1997 SGF	FY 1997 All Funds	FY 1998 SGF	FY 1998 All Funds
Revenue		-		
Expenditure				\$138,000
FTE Pos.				

The Department of Human Resources estimates that the contract with the Department of Health and Environment for the collection of medical information would total \$138,000 in FY 1998. The expenditures for this contract would be funded from the Workers Compensation Fee Fund. The Department of Human Resources anticipates that the remainder of the provisions of SB 346 would have no fiscal impact on state agency operations. Any fiscal effect resulting from the passage of this bill would be in addition to amounts included in *The FY 1998 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

Gloria M. Timmer

Director of the Budget

cc: Marc Lowe, DHR



Kathleen Sebelius Commissioner of Insurance

Kansas Insurance Department

March 5, 1997

Senator Alicia Salisbury Chairperson Senate Committee on Commerce State Capitol Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re:

Senate Bill 346

Dear Chairperson Salisbury:

The Kansas Department of Insurance would like to voice its support for the amendments to Senate Bill 346. These changes were requested by the Department on behalf of the Kansas Workers' Compensation Fund. They were approved by the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council and then presented to your Committee.

The changes to K.S.A. 44-534 would allow the Fund to bring a party into a case. This is important because the Fund still has liability for insolvent/uninsured employer cases. Most of these cases involve situations with construction firms where liability for the claim may belong to several parties. The Fund needs to be able to bring the responsible parties into the case and this change would allow that to happen.

The changes to K.S.A. 44-567 gives the Fund twenty days to prepare for a hearing. The statute currently has no advance notice requirement.

The changes to K.S.A. 44-551 merely place a one year time limit on the Respondent from date of the final award to request reimbursement. This will allow the Fund to better estimate its future liability from year to year.

Finally, the proposed changes to K.S.A. 44-566a will allow the Fund to be dismissed in old cases that have seen no prosecution by the Respondent. The changes from last year were retroactive and therefore unconstitutional.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important issues. If the Department can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely.

Paula S. Greathouse

Staff Attorney

Workers' Compensation Fund

Lenate Commerce. Committee March 5, 1997

Consumer Assistance Hotline 1 800 432-2484 (Toll Free)

420 SW 9th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612-1678 913 296-3071 Fax 913 296-2283 Printed on Recycled Paper

attachment 3

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Committee
March 5, 1997

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excess of the amount of compensation offered to the employee prior to the attorney's entry of appearance in the claim and which is in excess of \$20,000, as specified in subsection (a).

(f) All attorney fees for representation of an employee or the employee's dependents shall be only recoverable from compensation actually paid to such employee or dependents, except as specifically provided

otherwise in subsection (g) and (h).

(g) In the event any attorney renders services to an employee or the employee's dependents, subsequent to the ultimate disposition of the initial and original claim, and in connection with an application for review and modification, a hearing for additional medical benefits, an application for penalties or otherwise, such attorney shall be entitled to reasonable attorney fees for such services, in addition to attorney fees received or which the attorney is entitled to receive by contract in connection with the original claim, and such attorney fees shall be awarded by the director on the basis of the reasonable and customary charges in the locality for such services and not on a contingent fee basis. If the services rendered under this subsection by an attorney result in an additional award of disability compensation, the attorney fees shall be paid from such amounts of disability compensation. If such services involve no additional award of disability compensation, but result in an additional award of medical compensation; penalties, or other benefits, the director shall fix the proper amount of such attorney's attorney fees in accordance with this subsection and such fees shall be paid by the employer or the workers compensation fund, if the fund is liable for compensation pursuant to K.S.A. 44-567 and amendments thereto, to the extent of the liability of the fund. If the services rendered herein result in a denial of additional compensation, the director may authorize a fee to be paid by claimant or respondent.

(h) Any and all disputes regarding attorney fees, whether such disputes relate to which of one or more attorneys represents the claimant or claimants or is entitled to the attorney fees, or a division of attorney fees where the claimant or claimants are or have been represented by more than one attorney, or any other disputes concerning attorney fees or contracts for attorney fees, shall be heard and determined by the administrative law judge, after reasonable notice to all interested parties and

attorneys.

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(i) After reasonable notice and hearing before the administrative law judge, any attorney found to be in violation of any provision of this section shall be required to make restitution of any excess fees charged.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 44-5,120 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-5,120. (a) The director of workers compensation is hereby authorized and directed to establish a-section to implement a system for monitoring, reporting and investigating suspected fraud or abuse by any persons who

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are not licensed or regulated by the commissioner of insurance in connection with securing the liability of an employer under the workers compensation act or in connection with claims or benefits thereunder.

(1) Investigators for the section created in subsection (a) serve under the direction of the assistant attorney general as appointed under K.S.A. 44-5,124, and amendments thereto, and are hereby vested with the power and authority of peace and police officers, in the execution of duties imposed upon the director of workers compensation and the attorney general by this act and in refereign the

by this act and in enforcing the provisions of this act

(2) The investigators are deemed as enforcement agents for the division of workers compensation fraud and abuse section, and shall have the authority to make arrests, conduct searches and seizures, serve subpoenas, and carry firearms while investigating violations of this act and during the routine conduct of their duties as determined by the director or assistant attorney general. In addition to the above, these enforcement officers shall have the authority to make arrests, conduct searches and seizures and generally to enforce all the criminal laws of the state as violations of those laws are encountered by such employees or agents during the routine performance of their duties. In addition to or in lieu of the above, these enforcement agents shall have the authority to issue notices to appear pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2408 and amendments thereto. No enforcement agent under this section shall be certified to carry firearms under the provisions of this section without having first successfully completed the firearm training course or courses as prescribed for law enforcement officers under subsection (a) of K.S.A. 74-5604a and amendments thereto. The director or the assistant attorney general may adopt rules and regulation prescribing other training required for such enforcement agents.

(b) The commissioner of insurance is hereby authorized and directed to establish a system for monitoring, reporting and investigating suspected fraud or abuse by any persons who are licensed or regulated by the commissioner of insurance in connection with securing the liability of an employer under the workers compensation act or in connection with claims

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(b) (c) This section applies to:

(1) Persons claiming benefits under the workers compensation act;

(2) employers subject to the requirements of the workers compensation act;

(3) insurance companies including group-funded self-insurance plans covering Kansas employers and employees;

(4) any person, corporation, business, health care facility that is organized either for profit or not-for-profit and that renders medical care, treatment or services in accordance with the provisions of the workers



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inating committee.

(h) The members of the board shall annually elect one member to serve as chairperson.

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(i) If illness or other temporary disability of a member of the board will not permit the member to serve during a case or in any case in which a member of the board must be excused from serving because of a conflict ex, is otherwise disqualified with regard to such case, or if a need should otherwise occur, the director shall notify the workers compensation nominating committee of the need to appoint a member pro tem. Upon receipt of such notice, the committee shall act as soon as possible and nominate a qualified person to serve as member pro tem in such case in accordance with subsection (f). Each member pro tem shall receive compensation at the same rate as a member of the board receives, prorated for the days of actual service as a member pro tem and shall receive expenses under the same circumstances and to the same extent as a member of the board receives. Each member pro tem shall have all the powers, duties and functions of a member of the board with regard to the case.

(j) The board shall maintain principal offices in Topeka, Kansas, and the board may conduct hearings at a courthouse of any county in Kansas or at another location specified by the board. The secretary of human resources shall provide a courtroom and other suitable quarters in Topeka, Kansas, for the use of the board and its staff. When the board conducts hearings at any location other than in Topeka, Kansas, the director shall make suitable arrangements for such hearings. Subject to the provisions of appropriation acts, the director shall provide such supplies and equipment and shall appoint such support personnel as may be necessary for the board to fulfill the duties imposed by this act, subject to approval by the secretary.

(k) For purposes of hearing eases, the board may sit together or in panels of two members or more, designated by the chairperson of the board, except that an appeal from a preliminary award entered under K.S.A. 44 534a and amendments thereto may be heard by a panel of one member designated by the chairperson. All members of the board shall determine each matter before the board. All decisions, reviews and determinations by the board, except review of preliminary awards pursuant to K.S.A. 44-534a and amendments thereto and interlocutory orders, shall be approved in writing by at least three two board members. Whenever the board enters a final order in any proceeding, the board shall make written findings of fact and conclusions of law forming the basis of the board's determination and final order. The findings of fact and conclusions of law of the board shall mail a copy of the final order of the board to all parties to the proceeding within three days following the issuance of the final order.

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discharge and release to the retirement system for judges from any further claims;

(o) "accumulated contributions" means the sum of all contributions by a member to the retirement system for judges which are credited to the member's account, with interest allowed thereon after June 30, 1982; and

(p) except as otherwise provided in K.S.A. 20-2601 et seq. and amendments thereto, words and phrases used in K.S.A. 20-2601 et seq. and amendments thereto shall have the same meanings ascribed to them as are defined in K.S.A. 74-4902 and amendments thereto.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 1996 Supp. 44-551 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-551. (a) The duties of the assistant directors of workers compensation shall include but not be limited to acting in the capacity of an administrative law judge.

(b) (1) Administrative law judges shall have power to administer oaths, certify official acts, take depositions, issue subpoenas, compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, accounts, papers, documents and records to the same extent as is conferred on the district courts of this state, and may conduct an investigation, inquiry or hearing on all matters before the administrative law judges. All acts, findings, awards, decisions, rulings or modifications of findings or awards made by an administrative law judge shall be subject to review by the board upon written request of any interested party within 10 days. Review by the board shall be a prerequisite to judicial review as provided for in K.S.A. 44-556 and amendments thereto. On any such review, the board shall have authority to grant or refuse compensation, or to increase or diminish any award of compensation or to remand any matter to the administrative law judge for further proceedings.

(2) (A) If an administrative law judge has entered a preliminary award under K.S.A. 44-534a and amendments thereto or an interlocutory order, a review by the board shall not be conducted under this section unless it is alleged that the administrative law judge exceeded the administrative law judge's jurisdiction in granting or denying the relief requested at the preliminary hearing. Such an appeal from a preliminary award or an interlocutory order may be heard and decided by a single member of the board. Members of the board shall hear such preliminary appeals on a rotating basis and the individual board member who decides the appeal shall sign each such decision. The orders of the board on any acts, findings, awards, decisions, rulings or modifications of findings or awards shall be issued within 30 days from the date arguments were presented by the parties.

(B) If an order on review is not issued by the board within the applicable time period prescribed by subsection (b)(2)(A), medical com-

final orders,

under this subsection

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Bill Graves, Governor



Wayne L. Franklin, Secretary

Fraud & Abuse Investigation Section

DIVISION OF WORKERS COMPENSATION

800 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 600, Topeka, KS 66612-1227

PHONE.....(913) 296-6392 FAX(913) 296-7710

Statistical Information Workers Compensation Fraud and Abuse Senate Commerce Committee

Submitted by: Stephen W. Durrell, Assistant Attorney General

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commerce Committee:

Enclosed are two statistical records regarding the Workers Compensation Fraud and Abuse Section.

Please note that the first chart, regarding the targets of our investigations for 1996, refers to calendar year 1996. The second chart, that compiles a statistical record of fraud or abuse investigations by county is for <u>fiscal year 1996</u>. This is why the two charts do not have matching numbers.

A question was asked on Monday, February 24, regarding the actual number of cases that had been pursued criminally or administratively since the Fraud Investigation section's inception. As a different records system was used prior to my arrival with the Division, we are still trying to gather this information. I can however give you statistics for the time period I have been with the Division of Workers Compensation.

Since October of 1996, this office has sent six cases to county or district attorneys for criminal prosecution. We will be sending an additional three cases out for criminal prosecution within the next several days. At this time, most of these cases are still pending. This number does not include the federal criminal case which is scheduled to go to trial on March 24, 1997 that came about as a result of our investigations.

As for administrative remedies, there are currently 14 cases that are pending administrative hearing. Several of these cases will more than likely be resolved before a hearing needs to be held. Often times, restitution or fines are surrendered voluntarily to avoid the expense of administrative proceedings.

Please understand that these statistics can be misleading. Some of the cases that have been acted upon in the last five months are cases that had been being investigated before I arrived within the division. Also, there are cases that we have opened in the last five months in which the investigations are not complete but will eventually be set for criminal or administrative hearing. In other words, there are overlapping cases which might make the statistics a little confusing.

The Committee should remember that the number of cases that

are sent for prosecution are not reflective of the number of cases

Senate dommettee

March 5, 1997

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actually investigated. Since we are mandated with investigating felony crimes, the burden of proof is therefore high and every case file that we open must be investigated as if it were going to result in a criminal proceeding.

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to speak on February 24, 1997 regarding <u>Senate Bill #347</u>. If you have any questions regarding these statistics or this Bill, I would urge the Committee, either individually, or as a whole to contact my office. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Again, thank you for taking this bill under consideration.

STATE OF KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Bill Graves, Governor



Wayne L. Franklin, Secretary

Fraud & Abuse Investigation Section

DIVISION OF WORKERS COMPENSATION

800 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 600, Topeka, KS 66612-1227

PHONE.....(913) 296-6392 FAX(913) 296-7710

CALENDER YEAR 1996

WORKERS COMPENSATION FRAUD & ABUSE STATISTICS

	No.	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
CASES OPENED AGAINST EMPLOYEES	110	49%
CASES OPENED AGAINST EMPLOYERS	93	43%
CASES OPENED AGAINST PHYSICIANS/MEDICAL PROVIDERS	8	04%
CASES OPENED AGAINST ATTORNEY'S	5	02%
CASES OPENED AGAINST INSURANCE COMPANIES	6	02%
TOTAL CASES FOR 1996	223	100%

FISCAL YEAR 1996

WORKER'S COMPENSATION FRAUD & ABUSE

"BREAKDOWN BY COUNTY"

July 95 - June 96	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.							Total for Fiscal
Allen			Jept.	— Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Year
Anderson					l								
Atchison													
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Barton			1										
Bourbon	1						ļ						3
Brown		_2_											
Butler													2
Chase													1
Chautauqua													
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Cheyenne													2
Clark													
Clay						·							
Cloud				2									
Coffey				64									2
Comanche													
Cowley				1				. ———					
Crawford							2						_2
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FTSCAL YEAR 1996

WORKER'S COMPENSATION FRAUD & ABUSE

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Pratt						. ————							
Rawlins							· .						



FISCAL YEAR 1996

WORKER'S COMPENSATION FRAUD & ABUSE

"BREAKDOWN BY COUNTY"

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Rush													
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Scott			<u> </u>										_4
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Seward								1		-/		_2	_2.6
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