Approved: 3-13-07
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on March 6, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Judy Morrison - excused

Committee staff present:
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Sen. Nick Jordan
Bob VanCrum, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

Others attending:
See attached list.

SB 242 - concerning economic development and redevelopment of certain localities.

Kathie Sparks offered explanation of **SB 242**.

Questions and answers followed.

Senator Jordan addressed the Committee as a proponent of **SB 242**. (No written testimony.)

Questions and answers followed.

Bob VanCrum appeared in favor of **SB 242**. (Attachment 1).

Questions and answers followed.

Copies of written only testimony from Ashley Sherard of the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce. were distributed. (Attachment 2).

The hearing on **SB 242** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2007.

HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 3-6-07

Matt Bryant	TCG
Ashley Sherard	Lenexa Chamber
J Kent Eckles	O.P. Chamber of Commerce
Bob Vancrum	Greater KC Chamber of Commerce
Senator Nick Jordan	

Testimony to House Economic Development and Tourism Committee
Robert Vancrum, Kansas Government Affairs Specialist
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

SB242

March 6, 2007

Honorable Members of the Committee:

SB 242 was the result of requests from several people attempting to set up bioscience districts in the Kansas City area and especially a wet lab incubator project . It addresses several we think inadvertent deficiencies of the Kansas Bioscience Investment Acts of 2004. The bill makes three changes:

1. It allows municipalities to issue special obligation bonds in a bioscience district. Currently this only applies in a redevelopment district that was created by the municipality. Since the act retains the requirement that the approval of the Bioscience Authority is necessary in addition to the approval of the local government, we see no reason why this flexibility isn't granted.

2. It allows the bond proceeds to pay for all the personal property necessary or appropriate to create a wet lab facility in an incubator project in either type of district. Currently only certain items of equipment can be so financed and it is very expensive specialized equipment.

3. It clarifies that counties and school districts , who must get a prior notice of the creation of the district, only have the right to disapprove the creation of the district if their revenues could be adversely impacted. If the project would have no such impact on other taxing districts, no valid public purpose appears to be served by requiring their concurrence.

I would be happy to try to answer any questions.

Lenexa Chamber of Commerce

The Historic Lackman-Thompson Estate
11180 Lackman Road
Lenexa, KS 66219-1236
913.888.1414
Fax 913.888.3770

TO: Rep. Lana Gordon, Chairperson
Members, House Economic Development Committee

FROM: Ashley Sherard, Vice-President
Lenexa Chamber of Commerce

DATE: March 6, 2007

RE: **Support for SB 242—Wet Lab Facilities Among Eligible Bioscience Development Project Costs**

The Lenexa Chamber of Commerce would like to express its support for Senate Bill (SB) 242, which would designate the financing of wet lab facilities among eligible bioscience development project costs for which proceeds of municipal bonds may be used.

The emerging bioscience industry is already an important contributor to the Kansas economy. In addition to significant capital investment and millions of dollars in federal bioscience research funding, by January 2004 more than 20,000 Kansans held bioscience-related jobs, employed either as researchers and support staff at the state's universities or as researchers, management, technicians, and support staff at one of more than 160 bioscience companies currently operating in Kansas.

Recognizing its economic value and significant growth potential, a number of states are already taking steps to ensure their ability to effectively compete for future bioscience-related opportunities. To cultivate the strengths that make our state a natural fit for bioscience work and to remain a forerunner in the race to attract this important economic sector, the State of Kansas must continue to demonstrate its serious commitment to creating a supportive environment for the biosciences industry.

By enabling and encouraging technical infrastructure necessary to the development of bioscience products and services, we believe SB 242 would send a positive message and raise Kansas's competitive position in attracting unique bioscience-related opportunities across the state.

For these reasons, the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce urges the committee to consider SB 242 favorable for passage. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Economic Development & Tourism
Date: 3-6-07
Attachment # 2