

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Representative Mike Burgess, Chair, at 3:30 p.m. on February 9, 2011, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Rep. Rocky Fund - Excused
Rep. Kyle Hoffman - Excused
Rep. Kay Wolf - Excused

Committee staff present:

Julian Efird, Legislative Research
Iraida Orr, Legislative Research
Katherine McBride, Revisor of Statutes
Linda Herrick, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Ron Estes, State Treasurer

Others attending:

(see attached list)

The first order of business was to open the hearing on **HB 2157 - concerning the disclosure of tax information to the state treasurer for the purpose of locating unclaimed property owners.** Chair Burgess called upon Katherine McBride, to give the Revisor's overview. She noted changes beginning on line 39 of page 3 of the bill, which indicate the information may be provided to the state treasurer for the sole purpose of carrying out the provisions of K.S.A. 58-3934 et seq., and limits the information provided to current and prior addresses of taxpayers or associated persons who may have knowledge of the location of an owner of unclaimed property. "Associated persons" includes spouses or dependents listed on income tax returns. Chair Burgess thanked Ms. McBride for the overview and asked for any questions. The fiscal note provided indicates this bill will actually save \$6,100 per year, amount now paid to purchase the data from a third party.

Chair Burgess then introduced Ron Estes, State Treasurer, who gave testimony in favor of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). Mr. Estes indicated the bill would help the Treasurer's office be more efficient by allowing the Department of Revenue to securely share limited data with the State Treasurer. He added that this proposal passed both the House and Senate last year in separate bills, but it was not included in a conference committee bill at the end of the session.

Chair Burgess asked for any questions and Mr. Estes answered the members' questions:

- If taxpayers owe an amount to the state, that amount is deducted from the sum of the unclaimed property.
- Unclaimed property could be a little slow to claim as legal heirs are identified. The backlog is a little larger than normal right now, and part of that is due to getting up to speed with the new Smart system that went into effect last July. At this time, the turnaround is 35-45 days.

Mr. Estes then introduced the staff accompanying him today but not testifying: Derek Kreifels, Assistant State Treasurer; Travis Couture-Lovelady, Director of Communications; Aaron Otto, Deputy Assistant Treasurer; and Rita Mohr, Director, Unclaimed Property. Chair Burgess thanked Mr. Estes for his presentation and thanked staff for attending the hearing. Mr. Estes was the only scheduled conferee. Chair Burgess asked if there was anyone else who would like to testify. There being no other proponents, opponents, or neutrals, the hearing on the bill was closed. Chair Burgess announced that action on the bill will be taken at tomorrow's committee meeting.

The chair asked if there was any other business, and there was none.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

**HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND FISCAL
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

GUEST LIST

DATE: 2-9-2011

[illegible]



900 SW JACKSON ST., STE 201
TOPEKA KS 66612-1235

Ron Estes
KANSAS STATE TREASURER

PHONE: 785-296-3171
FAX: 785-296-7950

House Government Efficiency Committee

February 9th, 2011

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony today in favor of House Bill 2157.

This bill allows me to follow through on one of my campaign goals for the State Treasurer's office which was to find ways to carry out our responsibilities more efficiently. H.B. 2157 would help us be more efficient by allowing the Department of Revenue to securely share limited data with us.

In our unclaimed property division, holders of lost bank accounts, paychecks, oil and gas royalties, and numerous other items are required to deliver this property to our office with information identifying the owner. We have a statutory duty to try to find the owners to reunite them with their property. We use many tools to find people including paid search services and matching our data against the lists of organizations that have asked us to contact their members.

Thirty six percent of our properties have the owner's social security number reported to by the holder. This bill would allow us to match that number against income tax filings to obtain a current address. We would not be able to acquire social security numbers, date of birth, or any other identifying information other than addresses.

This proposal passed both the House and Senate last year in separate bills, but it was not included in a conference committee bill at the end of the session. Senate Bill 479 passed unanimously. Senate Substitute for HB 2521 passed the House and included similar language which allowed for information sharing.

The Department of Revenue supports this proposal. While the Secretary of Revenue and I understand the privacy concerns addressed by the current laws, this information will remain safeguarded within the current system and the privacy of the information will be assured since this bill will only allow access to a valid mailing address and not other tax payer information. We believe that Kansans would want government agencies to work together to return their lost property to them.

I'd be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

House Government Efficiency
Date: 2-9-2011
Attachment: 1-1