

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Troy Waymaster at 9:00 am on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in room 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Amanda Prosser, Legislative Research Department
Chris Waggoner, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Nicole Hrenchir, Legislative Research Department
Susan McClacherty, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Jennifer Light, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Tyrone Garner, Mayor, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas
Rev. Stacy R. Evans, Chairperson, Western University Association of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church
Representative Patrick Penn, 85th District
LaVert Murray, Individual
Rachel Willis, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Commerce
Andy Schlapp, Vice President of Strategy and Government Relations, Wichita State University
Ethan Erickson, Vice President of Administration and Finance, Kansas State University
Jeff DeWitt, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, University of Kansas

Others in attendance:

No list available

Request for bill introductions

Chairperson Waymaster called for requests for bill introductions.

No bill requests were presented.

Welcome

Representative Sutton informed committee members that his wife, Lana Sutton, was in the audience to witness him going to work, and requested that the members behave today.

Chairperson Waymaster welcomed Lana Sutton to the meeting.

Hearing on: HB2398 — Providing funding for the state historical society to issue a scope statement, plan the work to be accomplished and issue a request for proposals for a master plan

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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for the Quindaro ruins archaeological park in Wyandotte county, Kansas, and implement such master plan.

Chairperson Waymaster opened the hearing on **HB2398**.

Jennifer Light, Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department, provided information about **HB2398**. ([Attachment 1](#))

Jennifer Light stood for questions from the committee.

Proponent in-person testimony was provided by Tyrone Garner, Mayor, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. ([Attachment 2](#))

Mayor Garner answered questions from committee members.

Representative Estes requested it be recorded in the minutes that with her conversations with Representative Marvin Robinson, Representative Robinson was very concerned that the tourism not disturb and ruin what was on site, and that more than one church has been involved to be a prominent player in this discussion.

Chairperson Waymaster asked if anyone wanted to speak to the bill.

No in-person or written opponent testimony was provided.

Neutral in-person testimony was provided by Rev. Stacy R. Evans, Chairperson, Western University Association of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. ([Attachment 3](#)) ([Attachment 4](#)) ([Attachment 5](#))

Rev. Evans answered questions from committee members.

Jill Wolters, First Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes, answered questions from committee members.

Representative Penn informed the committee members that the bill is introducing the state of Kansas on the visibility of the Quindaro ruins, an historic site wherein various entities own pieces of the property. Various plans happened in silos and the State has not been a part of the development of those plans or a master plan, and the bill is housed under the State Historical Society in order to bring the development up the level of the Smithsonian standard.

LaVert Murray provided in-person neutral testimony that there were discussions with the National Park Service and the National Park Service would own ground designated within the 200 acres and other

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entities and individuals would own other pieces of ground near the community. He provided a description of a predominate outlook structure built within the Quindaro area and the vision to make the site a bi-state initiative.

Chairperson Waymaster closed the public hearing on **HB2398**.

Informational briefing: **STAR Bonds**

Rachel Willis, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Commerce, provided an overview of the Sales Tax And Revenue (STAR) Bond program, historical projects funded by STAR bonds, revenues each project generated, and potential STAR-bonded projects within Kansas. ([Attachment 6](#))

Rachel Willis answered questions from committee members.

Higher Education Bonding

Andy Schlapp, Vice President of Strategy and Government Relations, Wichita State University, informed the committee about a renovation project for the University Stadium and made a request for bonding authority of the project. ([Attachment 7](#))

Ethan Erickson, Vice President of Administration and Finance, Kansas State University, requested bonding authority for the university's agriculture innovation initiative that represents five separate projects totaling about \$210 million as a backup plan to finance the full cost of the initiative. All projects are designed to help develop the food and agriculture economy, educate the workforce, and expand their research efforts. ([Attachment 8](#))

Ethan Erickson answered questions from committee members.

Jeff DeWitt, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, University of Kansas, informed the committee of the four projects they want bonding authority to assist with the financing of them. They would continue being under their 7 percent debt-burden policy which is below their peers in other states. ([Attachment 9](#))

Jeff DeWitt answered questions from committee members.

Chairperson Waymaster informed committee members that based on the discussion of **HB2398** and being there being areas of concern that need addressed, the committee will not be working the bill as scheduled tomorrow. The committee will be focusing their full attention tomorrow on **SB125**, the claims against the state.

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The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting is March 12, 2025.