

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on January 13, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley- excused
Senator Jeff King - excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Eunice Peters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education

Others attending:

See attached list.

Introduction of Legislation

Senator Vratil moved for introduction of the following bills recommended by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC): (1) to amend three provisions in the school finance law relating to levies imposed by school districts for the ancillary facilities weighting, cost of living weighting, and declining enrollment weighting, adding a definition of "taxable tangible property" to each section; (2) to create a Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) weighting to the school finance law resulting in increased local option budget authority of school districts; and (3) to eliminate the sunset provision in the statute authorizing a school district to calculate its local option budget using the base state aid per pupil (BSAPP) of \$4,433 in any school year in which the BSAPP is less than that amount and using an amount equal to the amount appropriated for special education state aid in school year 2008-2009. The motion was seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Vratil moved for introduction of the following bills recommended by the Special Committee on Education: (1) to exclude students age 21 and older from being counted in the at-risk student count; (2) a bill making a correction in the current transportation funding formula; (3) a bill to limit school districts' expenditures of state aid from at-risk weightings to salaries or benefits for teachers instructing at-risk or bilingual students, teaching in vocational or kindergarten programs, and hirings due to reduction in class size; (4) change the method of computing state aid for at-risk students by using full-time equivalent enrollment in at-risk programs, rather than headcount enrollment of students defined as at risk; and (5) amend current law governing the bilingual weighting contained in the school finance formula changing the enrollment basis to a headcount. The motion was seconded by Senator Owens. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Vratil moved to introduce legislation raising the cap on campaign contributions for State Board of Education candidates. The motion was seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Overview of K-12 Education Issues

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas State Department of Education presented an overview of K-12 (Attachment 1) including special education maintenance of effort, effects of the money received under the Federal Education Jobs Fund, and base state aid per pupil.

Mr. Dennis also presented a brief overview of the Governor's budget recommendations (Attachment 2) for schools 2010-11 and 2011-2012. The Governor has recommended that the base state aid per pupil (BSAPP) be reduced from \$4,012 to \$3,937 (\$75) for the 2010-11 school year and further reduced to \$3,780 (additional \$157) for the 2011-12 school year. The BSAPP reduction of \$75 was a result of a decrease in the assessed valuation, an increase in at-risk students, and an increase in enrollment. The

BSAPP reduction of \$157 for the 2011-12 school year is a result of the loss of ARRA/Federal Jobs funds. There were increases in appropriations for KPERS, capital improvement, and special education for the 2011-12 school.

A brief review (Attachment 3) and discussion was also held regarding contingency reserve funds established in each school district.

A question and answer session with committee members was held.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 02:30 p.m.