

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on March 2, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – excused
Senator Dwayne Umbarger - 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
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Terry Sader
Jeanine Phillips
Joan Farha
Kesia Kesler
Lisa Ruane
Jane Hayes
Tammi Costello (written only)
Dr. Dennis Cooley (written only)
Terry Collins, Doniphan Co Educ Coop #616
Dr. Linda Aldridge, Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators
Tom Krebs, Kansas Association of School Boards
Susan Sipe, Director, Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports Core Team (written only)
Gary George, Olathe USD #233 (written only)
Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer (written only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Teichman moved to approve the minutes of February 14, February 15, February 16, February 17, February 21, and February 22, 2011 as written. The motion was seconded by Senator Abrams. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Hearing on SB 75-Dyslexia and other reading problems; requiring certain testing

Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided a summary of the provisions of **SB 75**. **SB 75** would require the Kansas Board of Education to ensure that students enrolled in public schools are screened and tested to identify those with reading disabilities, including dyslexia. The Board would be required to review partnerships with early childhood providers to see that reading diagnostic assessments used in pre-K, kindergarten, and grades one and two would ensure that reading disabilities are identified and analyzed. The Board would also review teacher preparation courses to ensure knowledge of the best practices of instructions is used to instruct children with disabilities, including dyslexia. The Board would be required to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 14, 2012, on the activities used to implement provisions of the bill.

	Estimated State Fiscal Effect			
	FY 2011 SGF	FY 2011 All Funds	FY 2012 SGF	FY 2012 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	(\$164,815)	(\$164,815)
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	2.00

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 2, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

According to the Kansas Department of Education, enactment of **SB 75** would require 2.0 Education Program Consultants FTE positions. Total expenditures for these positions would total \$164,815 in FY 2012, including \$153,000 for salaries and wages and \$11,815 for other operating expenditures. The agency's estimate for other operating expenditures would include \$8,200 for furniture and equipment, \$2,000 for travel and subsistence expenditures, \$1,000 for supplies, and \$615 for communications.

Committee discussion of **SB 75** began with Chair Schodorf pointing out each committee member had been provided with a copy of **HR 6021** ([Attachment 1](#)). **HR 6021** urges the State Board of Education to study dyslexia by ensuring early screening or testing to identify children with a reading disability, including dyslexia, review current reading diagnostic assessments used at pre-K thru grade 12, review teacher preparation, and ensure that research-based programs of instruction are designed and implemented to address the needs of children with reading problems, including dyslexia.

Dr. Terry Sader, Kansas Coalition for Dyslexia Legislation, appeared before the committee with testimony in support of **SB 75** ([Attachment 2](#)) which requires the state board of education to adopt rules and regulations to ensure that students enrolled in public schools are screened or tested to identify those students with reading disabilities, including, but not limited to, dyslexia. It is his feeling that **HR 6021** is not being complied with and therefore, passage of **SB 75** is necessary.

Others appearing with testimony in support of **SB 75** included Jeanine Phillips ([Attachment 3](#)), Joan Farha ([Attachment 4](#)), Kesia Kesler ([Attachment 5](#)), Lisa Ruane, Jane Hayes ([Attachment 6](#)), Tammi Costello ([Attachment 7](#)) (written only), and Dr. Dennis Cooley ([Attachment 8](#)) (written only).

Terry Collins, Director, Doniphan County Education Cooperative #616, appeared in opposition to the passage of **SB 75** ([Attachment 9](#)). He stated the bill attempts to single out dyslexia from the umbrella of learning disabilities and places this one condition above all other eligible conditions under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Public schools already have a system to find and identify children who have learning problems. He stated testing done by the public school system is free and a separate diagnosis process for dyslexia will be lengthy and expensive.

Others appearing in opposition to **SB 75** included Dr. Linda Aldridge, Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators ([Attachment 10](#)), Tom Krebs, Kansas Association of School Boards ([Attachment 11](#)), Susan Sipe, Director, Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports Core Team ([Attachment 12](#)) (written only), Gary George, Olathe USD #233 ([Attachment 13](#)) (written only), and Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer ([Attachment 14](#)) (written only).

Following committee discussion, the hearing on **SB 75** was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.