

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on March 14, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research
Deb Hollon, Legislative Research
Mitch Rice, Revisor of Statutes
Jodie Anspaugh, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ed McKechnie, Watch Companies, Inc.
Julie Hein, Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairperson Brownlee opened the hearing on HB 2191 regarding port authorities. Ed McKechnie, Watco Companies, Inc., testified in support of the bill. (Attachment 1) The intention of the bill is to allow port authorities greater flexibility in seeking financing options to preserve Kansas' railroad infrastructure. Currently, Kansas law only allows borrowing from the state, the federal government, and from financial institutions. HB 2191 allows the port to have the additional financing options of a private person or entity, such as another railroad.

Chairperson Brownlee closed the hearing on HB 2191. There was no discussion. Senator Kerr made a motion to move the bill out favorably for passage. Senator Emler seconded. The motion carried.

Chairperson Brownlee opened the hearing on HB 2106, regarding tourism. (Attachment 2) Julie Hein, representing the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association, testified in support of the bill. This is a simple bill that updates and corrects names of organizations which make nominations for membership on the Tourism Council, which is an advisory council to the Secretary of Commerce and Housing. This bill only makes small technical changes in current law.

Chairperson Brownlee closed the hearing on HB 2106. There was no discussion. Senator Jordan made a motion to move the bill out favorably for passage. Senator Steineger seconded. The motion carried.

Chairperson Brownlee announced that the workers compensation subcommittee may meet at the rail today to move Sub SB 181 out of the subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE at 8:30 a.m. on March 14, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

The next meeting will be March 18, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 123-S.