

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 1:39 p.m. on March 22, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present:

Committee staff present:

Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research  
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research  
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Steinlicht, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association  
Martin Platt, President, Kansas Association of Beverage Retailers, Wichita

Others attending:

See Attached List

### **Senate Republican Leadership School Finance Proposal**

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes, explained components of each section of the new school finance proposal. ([Attachment 1](#)) Theresa also explained the insurance provisions in the bill for employees. ([Attachment 2](#))

Senator Vratil noted that in the insurance provision, number 1 of attachment 2, should read "provided less than \$100 per month per employee who are participating under the current plan." Also, in Section 6, the increases for bilingual weighting should be from ".2 to .22" for the school year 2004-2005, instead of ".2 to .21".

Chairman Umbarger stated that when putting the proposal together, the group was looking for a way to find some revenue without raising any general taxes and the group felt these were proposals that were worthy of consideration.

Mark Tallman, KASB, provided KASB's position and a comparison of the Governor's plan, the Senate Republican Leadership plan and the House Republican Leadership plan. KASB believes this bill today does not go as far as they want, but it does make some measure of progress and they appreciate that this bill would provide additional operating revenue for all Kansas school districts. KASB recognizes that any effort to provide new dollars for schools will take additional revenue on the part of the state and KASB will be in support. KASB believes this bill addresses many of the concerns, but not all. ([Attachment 3](#))

Mark Desetti, KNEA, believes that this plan is inadequate and that it will not satisfy Judge Bullock because the funding is not adequate. KNEA believes this proposal will get schools through next year without harmful cuts, but it leaves schools without any long-term funding hope. They believe the \$100 FTE should be made permanent. Without immediate action, Kansas schools will lose their standing in this nation and without excellent schools, the workforce will be jeopardized. KNEA urges the Legislature to act now and act in such a way as to provide schools with some measure of stability. ([Attachment 4](#))

Martin Platt, President of Platt Retail Liquor, Wichita, Kansas testified against the funding portion of this school finance proposal because of the increases in liquor taxes. This proposal more than doubles the gallonage taxes on the products that they sell. He has heard over and over that taxes have not increased since 1977, however, enforcement taxes paid have doubled and a third tax was created called the 10% drink tax. This proposal creates an instant floor tax to be paid on inventory which he anticipates will be one to two thousand dollars which means he will have to come up with more cash which will not be made up until his inventory is sold.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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This proposal requires taxes to be paid prior to getting their license renewed. This is not true for car dealers, doctors, lawyers, etc. KABR feels that the state should apply enforcement policies evenly. It is unfair that this proposal does not attempt to reject all state issued licenses for nonpayment of taxes. Retail liquor stores have been through detailed audits which served to bring the stores into excellent compliance and should not be punished for delinquencies by other types of licensees. KABR requests that all state issued licenses be held to the same standard for the collection of taxes. The state of Kansas should protect Kansas owned business by recognizing the pressures of the industry and be careful to avoid damaging public policy such as this proposal. (Attachment 5)

Dr. Kent Hurn, United School Administrators, provided written testimony in favor of Senate Leadership School Finance Plan. (Attachment 6)

Discussion followed. Senator Umbarger announced that the committee would meet again tomorrow and those that did not get to testify would get a chance tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2004.