

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Morris at 10:35 a.m. on March 5, 2003, in Room 123-S, of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator David Adkins - excused
Senator Christine Downey - excused
Senator Larry Salmans - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Leah Robinson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Bill Bunten
Art Anderson, Ombudsman, Division of Workers Compensation, Kansas Department of Human Resources
Scott Brunner, Acting Deputy Secretary of Operations, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Dr. Michael Moser, Director of Health Services, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others attending: See attached list

Bill Introductions

Senator Feleciano moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to introduce a bill regarding the state finance council; voting procedures (3rs0398). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Schodorf moved, with a second by Senator Bunten, to introduce a bill concerning repealing the Kansas performance review act (3rs400). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Kerr moved, with a second by Senator Barone, to introduce a bill regarding transferring the functions of the office of state fire marshal to the board of fire services (3rs0885). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 50—State employee voluntary leave purchase program

Staff briefed the committee on the bill.

Senator Bill Bunten testified regarding **SB 50** and explained that he had visited with a state employee, Art Anderson, Division of Workers Compensation, about an idea that he found interesting (Attachment 1). After visiting with others about the idea, Senator Bunten noted that he decided to introduce a bill that would, if passed, be beneficial to both state employees and the state. Portions of the bill were detailed.

Art Anderson, Ombudsman, Division of Workers Compensation, Kansas Department of Human Resources, testified in support of **SB 50** (Attachment 2). Mr. Anderson thanked the committee for the opportunity to present the idea that he felt would allow the State of Kansas to do two things that are very important to all:

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- reduce the State payroll expense
- provide a morale-boosting benefit program

Mr. Anderson explained that he came across this idea due to his wife being employed several years with an international business, CIGNA Insurance, and also with another company, Kemper Insurance, and both companies have this program in place. Additional information was distributed to the committee by Mr. Anderson regarding CIGNA Corporation ([Attachment 3](#)) and Kemper Insurance ([Attachment 4](#)).

Chairman Morris recognized Jack Rickerson, Director, Division of Personnel Services, who mentioned that the Kansas Department of Administration was neutral on the bill but they were concerned with the fiscal impact. Committee questions and discussion followed. Chairman Morris requested amendments from the Agency regarding **SB 50** for committee discussion.

The Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 50**.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on the following Federal Block Grants (notice of the hearing appeared in the February 6, 2003, issue of the Kansas Register):

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, presented by Scott Brunner, Acting Deputy of Operations ([Attachment 5](#)):

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
Block Grant for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse
Community Mental Health Services Block Grant
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant (LIHEAP)
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness Block Grant (PATH)

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, presented by Dr. Michael Moser, Director of Health ([Attachment 6](#)):

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant

Committee questions and discussion followed. Chairman Morris recognized Paul Johnson, Public Assistance Coalition, who expressed concern that in regard to the LIHEAP federal block grant, weatherization is vital and a longer term answer in helping people with utility bills. He hoped that the committee would consider mandating the 15 percent transfer out of the LIHEAP federal block grant to weatherization.

The Chairman closed the public hearing on the Federal Block Grants.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2003.