

Approved: March 20, 2007
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:40 A.M. on February 21, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Jay Emler- excused

Committee staff present:

Norman Furse, Revisor Emeritus
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Erik Sartorius, City of Overland Park
Candace Shively, Deputy Secretary, Integrated Service Delivery, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Gina McDonald, Kansas Children's Service League
Matt Hudson, Consumer
Diane Duffy, Vice President for Finance, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger turned the Committee's attention to discussion of the following bill:

SB 232--Municipalities; postemployment benefits other than retirement; authorization

The Chairman welcomed Erik Sartorius, on behalf of the City of Overland Park, who explained a balloon amendment, which included some technical amendments, which was offered by the Kansas Department of Administration (Attachment 1). Senator Steineger moved, with a second by Senator Wysong, to adopt the balloon amendment on SB 232. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Steineger, to recommend SB 232 favorable for passage as amended. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Chairman Umbarger opened the public hearing on:

SB 355--Repealing sunset on Kansas foster child educational assistance act

Staff briefed the committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed Candace Shively, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, who testified in support of SB 355 (Attachment 2). Ms. Shively explained that extending the act beyond the June 30, 2008, sunset would facilitate educational planning for students and continue this valuable support for youth. Copies of the cover letter for the report regarding the Kansas Foster Child Educational Assistance Act that was sent to the Kansas Legislature addressed to the Kansas Senate and the Kansas House of Representatives from Secretary Don Jordan of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation were distributed to the Committee (Attachment 3). Copies of this report are available with the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:40 A.M. on February 21, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Gina McDonald, Kansas Children's Service League, who testified in favor of **SB 355** (Attachment 4). Ms. McDonald mentioned that the Kansas Children's Service League requests continuation of the option for children in foster care to waive tuition in state universities.

The Chairman welcomed Matthew Hudson, consumer, who testified in support of the bill and provided information regarding his experiences being in foster care and the help that was given to him through the Kansas Foster Child Educational Assistance Act (Attachment 5).

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Diane Duffy, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Kansas Board of Regents, who presented testimony with one amendment to the Foster Care Educational Assistance Act of 2006 (Attachment 6). Ms. Duffy explained that amendment is to include a funding mechanism that will reimburse the postsecondary institutions for the tuition and fees that the institutions waived for students in the program.

Written testimony was submitted by Bruce Linhos, Executive Director, The Children's Alliance of Kansas (Attachment 7) and Melissa Ness on behalf of St. Francis Academy (Attachment 8).

There being no further conferees to come before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 355**.

Senator Betts moved, with a second by Senator Steineger, to amend SB 355 to request that the Subcommittee on Higher Education review including the tuition and fees. Following discussion, Senator Betts withdrew his motion, with acceptance by Senator Steineger.

Senator Steineger moved, with a second by Senator Betts, to amend SB 355 to include both tuition and required fees as the educational costs to be waived by educational institutions. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Schodorf moved, with a second by Senator Betts, to recommend SB 355 favorable for passage as amended. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2007.