

Approved: May 8, 2008
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Jay Emler at 10:35 A.M. on February 26, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Donald Betts, Jr. - excused
Senator Steve Morris - excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Kristen Clarke Kellems, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cody Gorges, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Weatherford, President, Kansas Development Finance Authority
Brian Caswell, Baxter Springs, Representing the Kansas Pharmacy Association and the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy Advisory Board
Amber Woehl, Community Pharmacist and recent University of Kansas School of Pharmacy graduate
Dr. Ken Audus, Dean of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

Senator McGinn moved, with a second by Senator V. Schmidt, to introduce a conceptual bill concerning abuse of elderly by family members. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Copies of the Kansas Legislative Research Department Budget Analysis Report for FY 2008 and FY 2009 were available to the committee.

Subcommittee reports on:

Kansas Department of Labor (Attachment 1)

Subcommittee Chairman David Wysong reported that the subcommittee on the Kansas Department of Labor concurs with the Governor's recommendation in FY 2008 and concurs with the Governor's FY 2009 recommendation with adjustments.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the Kansas Department of Labor in FY 2008 and FY 2009. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Board of Tax Appeals (Attachment 2)

Subcommittee Chairwoman Vicki Schmidt reported that the subcommittee on the Board of Tax Appeals concurs with the Governor's recommendation in FY 2008 and concurs with the Governor's FY 2009 recommendation with adjustment and notations.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:30 A.M. on February 26, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Senator V Schmidt moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the Board of Tax Appeals in FY 2008 and FY 2009. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Vice Chairman Emler welcomed Steve Weatherford, President, Kansas Development Financial Authority, who continued the briefing on bonding (Attachment 3). Mr. Weatherford reviewed the first portion of his briefing that was presented at a previous meeting. Information was provided regarding a comparison of Kansas to the surrounding states and the review of credit ratings. Mr. Weatherford provided details on tax-supported debt in the appendix of his written testimony. Committee questions and discussion followed.

The Committee heard a briefing on Pharmacy Shortage and the Chairman welcomed Brian Caswell, Baxter Springs, representing the Kansas Pharmacy Association and the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy Advisory Board (Attachment 4). Mr. Caswell addressed the concern in that it is a challenge to access to a licensed pharmacist, in particular to rural Kansas counties, where the number of pharmacists is shrinking at an alarming rate. He noted that the U.S. population is aging at a rate never before seen due to the "Baby Boomers" along with better health care allowing seniors to live longer and healthier lives. Mr. Caswell noted that the average age of an independent pharmacy owner in the state of Kansas is 54 and many of the pharmacists are beginning to make retirement plans. Mr. Caswell mentioned that the solution to the increased demand is an increase in the supply of pharmacists.

Amber Woehl, Community Pharmacist and recent University of Kansas School Pharmacy graduate, mentioned that in 2004 following her graduation, she and her husband purchased City Pharmacy in Minneapolis, Kansas (Attachment 5). She noted that it is the only pharmacy serving Ottawa County. Ms. Woehl noted that if their pharmacy was forced to close its doors, the void left in the community would be substantial. She emphasized that expansion of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy is an investment in Kansas' health and economic viability.

Dr. Ken Audus, Dean of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy, explained that the community pharmacies play a vital role in maintaining the core infrastructure of towns all across the state (Attachment 6). He noted that these community pharmacies are not just filling prescriptions, but they are meeting critical health care delivery needs for many Kansans. Mr. Audus described the plan that was developed by the Kansas Pharmacists Association and the endorsement of the Kansas Board of Regents to nearly double the number of pharmacists in the state which is detailed in his written testimony.

Chairman noted that the committee will take up this issue at a later time regarding the funding issue the thanked those that appeared before the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for February 27, 2008.