

Approved: March 21, 2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:00 a.m. on March 16, 2000 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Representative Nancy Kirk
Michael Goren, Ks. Assoc. for Blind & Visually Impaired
Bryce Miller, National Alliance for Mentally Ill
Denny Burgess, Kansas Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors

Others attending: See Attached List

Chairman Oleen recognized Denny Burgess, who represented the Kansas Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors. Mr. Burgess requested the introduction of a bill that provide for state certification. Senator Becker moved for the introduction of the bill. Senator Biggs seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Chairman Oleen ask for action on the committee minutes for the meeting which had been held at the rail on March 14, 2000. Senator Biggs moved to accept the minutes, Senator Vidricksen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Russell Mills reviewed **HB 2355** for the committee. He stated that this bill would authorize a memorial for people who are buried on the grounds of the former Topeka State Hospital. The state would retain title to the portion of the grounds where the burial plots. Mr. Mills stated that a plaque inscribed with the names of people buried in the cemetery and fencing would be added to the cemetery from private funds.

Chairman Oleen stated that the house is on final orders and Representative Kirk will appear before the committee and she will be allowed to testify when she arrives.

Chairman Oleen recognized Michael Goren, a proponent to **HB 2355** representing Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. Mr. Goren reported that the KABVI has an amendment for **HB 2355** which would provide that Secretary of Administration shall convey to the Kansas Division of services for the Blind land located on the Topeka State campus as near to the current services for the Blind location as possible. Mr. Goren stated that this matter had been brought before the legislature last session but that legislation was not specific enough.

Chairman Oleen stated that Representative Kirk had arrived and recognized her as a proponent for **HB 2355**. Representative Kirk stated that the Shawnee County Delegation had been working on this piece of legislation since the notice of the closure of The Topeka State Hospital. She stated that there were 1157 persons buried in the cemetery, although there are only 16 head stones. Representative Kirk stated that many of the persons buried there had been forgotten or ignored by relatives because of the stigma of mental illness. She stated that because of the closing of The Topeka State Hospital, these persons should be remembered with a memorial and a plaque that would list all their names; and that a fence be put around the area to set it apart. Representative Kirk also addressed some of the concerns expressed by Mr. Goren in his amendment and stated that SRS had been working to place employees of the Kansas Association for the Blind in jobs of equivalent salary and also be able to continue their health insurance.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS, Room 245-N Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m. on March 16, 2000.

that 150 X 50 yards and the only costs would be the fence around the site and the design of the memorial and the plaque. She stated that the secretary of administration shall maintain the memorial and its grounds.

Chairman Oleen recognized Bryce Miller, a proponent to **HB 2355**. Mr. Miller stated that he is a mental health advocate and has served on the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council from 1989 to 1997. (Attachment 2) He told the committee that the first person was interned in August, 1879 and the last one buried in July, 1954. The Kansas Historical Society has the names of all the persons who are buried in the cemetery. Mr. Mills ask for the committees favorable support of **HB 2355**.

Chairman Oleen stated that written testimony had been received from Michael Byington, Director of Envision in support of **HB 2355** and endorsing the proposed amendment. (Attachment 3).

Chairman Oleen closed the hearing on **HB 2355**.

Chairman Oleen ask for committee action on **HB 2592**. Senator Becker moved to change the appointment process of the chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary-treasurer. Senator Jones seconded the motion. After discussion by the committee and additional consideration, Senator Becker withdrew his motion and Senator Jones his second. Senator Biggs moved to report the bill favorably to the full Senate. Senator Becker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Oleen called the committees' attention to language concerning the sale of fetal organ or tissue that has been distributed. Senator Vratil moved that Substitute for **HB 2007** by stricken in its entirety and the language of the fetal tissue bill be inserted and the bill be reported favorably to the full Senate. Senator Becker seconded the motion. After discussion by the committee. The motion carried.

Senator Biggs gave a report from the subcommittee on **SB 652** He stated that concerns that were brought up at the hearing, as well as the balloon suggested by SRS, have been addressed in the Proposed **Sub SB 652** which staff had prepared for the committee. After discussion by the committee, Senator Becker moved to report **Sub SB 652** favorably to the full Senate, Senator Vratil seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Oleen stated that the committee would meet after the session on Friday at the rail for the introduction of a bill.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.