

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 11:00 a.m. on March 8, 2000 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, KLRD
Rae Anne Davis, KS Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, KS Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Michael Corrigan, Asst. Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman
Ronda Miller, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Charles Whelan, Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
Terri Roberts, Kansas State Nurses Association
Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association

Others attending: See attached list

SB 266 **Medical student loan act; satisfaction of loan recipients service obligation**

The Chairman noted that **SB 266** was heard last year, but was opposed by the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians. Paul West, Kansas Legislative Research Department, told members that **SB 266** adds teaching at the University of Kansas Medical Center in the area of emergency medicine to ways one can satisfy obligations of the medical student loan act. He stated that the program has the same authority for professors in general internal medicine, general pediatrics, family medicine and family practice and the participants would have to serve twice as long. It was noted that this proposal would probably address only one or two participants.

A letter from the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians in support of **SB 266** was distributed to members (Attachment 1).

It was moved by Senator Salmans and seconded by Senator Salisbury that **SB 266** be recommended favorably for passage. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

SB 381: **Professional service scholarships, osteopaths, optometrists, nurses, teachers, dentists, national guard officers**

Paul West reviewed the supplemental note on **SB 381** written by the Kansas Legislative Research Department. In answer to a question about the fiscal note attached to this bill, Mr. West stated that technically there is none because it is subject to appropriation. However, the dentistry program would have the highest potential fiscal note which has been estimated to be \$600,000 per year. In answer to other questions, it was stated that:

- ethnic minority scholarships would be funded at 100% to encourage graduate level ethnic minorities to stay within Kansas institutions upon graduation, and the definition of ethnic minority parallels the language in **SB 380**
- this bill does not broaden the definition in the area of obstetrics and gynecology

Charles Wheelen, representing the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine, reviewed his written testimony in support of **SB 381** (Attachment 2). He added that despite the brevity of the conferees' testimony, **SB 381** is the product of two years' work to try to improve the scholarship programs and make them more uniform. He pointed out that the written testimony submitted by Marlin Rein points to the reasons **SB 381** is a good proposal (Attachment 8). In answer to concerns, Mr. Wheelen stated that the study that has been historically used at KUMC for determining underserved areas is obsolete, so the the

CONTINUATION SHEET

SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Board of Regents was consulted regarding criteria that might help define a community within an urban area that could be recognized as an underserved areas where service obligations could be fulfilled.

Terri Roberts, Executive Director of the Kansas State Nurses Association, provided written testimony for the Committee in support of **SB 381** which she reviewed (Attachment 3). She told members that **SB 381** expands the nursing student scholarship eligible sponsors list to include licensed home health agencies and local health departments.

Kevin Robertson, Executive Director of the Kansas Dental Association, appeared before the Committee in support of **SB 381** (Attachment 4) and reviewed four factors that he believed contributed to the decreasing number of dentists who are being trained in the U.S. and the factors influencing practice location. He stated that the dental scholarship portion of the bill might be more “palatable” to legislators if the number of scholarships was decreased and if the dental scholarship is tied to students attending dental schools in states in which Kansas does not formally have an agreement in an effort to increase the number of Kansans attending dental school. Concern was expressed about the state of Kansas providing scholarships when a participant has the ability to buy out of the service obligation. In answer to a request, Mr. Robertson stated that he would provide information regarding salaries of dentists for the purpose of comparing it with information regarding tuition and fees.

Written testimony in support of **SB 381** from the following persons was distributed to members for their review:

Gary Robbins, Executive Director of the Kansas Optometric Association (Attachment 5)

Marvin Burris, Director of Fiscal Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents (Attachment 6)

Craig Grant, Kansas National Education Association (Attachment 7)

It was noted that no conferees appeared to testify in regard to the fellowship for ethnic minority graduate students. In answer to a question, it was stated that 100% of the cost of attendance in this case would be below the current \$8,000 stipend. There was some concern that language in the bill would allow an award larger than the cost of attendance.

Staff noted that it is the intent of the language in the bill to make exceptions for fulfilling service obligations for all programs as similar as possible. The Chairman stated that the bill would be held in Committee.

SB 648: Contract entered into to provide services for the Kansas tax institute

No conferees appeared to testify either in support or opposition to this bill. The Chairman noted that Kansas State University had not requested the bill.

SB 380 as amended by Sn Cmt: Kansas ethnic minority scholarship program, definition of institution, award amounts

Mr. Marvin Burris, Director of Fiscal Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents, told members that **SB 380** expands the list of eligible institutions to include area vocational technical schools and changes the criteria for the maximum award. It was noted that the program is subject to appropriation and if every student receives the maximum amount, there would be fewer students served.

It was moved by Senator Feleciano and seconded by Senator Lawrence that **SB 380** as amended by Senate Committee be recommended favorably for passage. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

Senator Lawrence moved, Senator Jordan seconded, that 9rs 2400 be introduced as requested by the Board of Regents. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting will be March 9, 2000.