

Approved: March 28, 2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 11:00 a.m. on March 21, 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:

Others attending: See attached list

A motion was offered by Senator Gilstrap and seconded by Senator Salmans to approve the minutes of the March 10th and March 14th meetings. The motion carried on a voice vote.

It was moved by Senator Salmans and seconded by Senator Morris that bill draft 9rs 2487 be introduced as requested by Senator Praeger. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Morris reviewed the FY 2001 subcommittee report on **SRS - Substance Abuse, Community Mental Health Services, and MHDD Administration** (Attachment 1). Senator Ranson moved, Senator Lawrence seconded that item 3 (Attachment 1-8) be amended to include language that would encourage schools of education to include course work that would provide teachers with a basic understanding of juvenile mental health issues. Concern was expressed that mandating requirements such as this into the education curriculum would dilute the educational aspects of the school. The motion to amend carried on a voice vote.

There was lengthy discussion regarding the subcommittee's recommendation to form a Task Force to develop a plan for the mental health system (item 8). Concern was expressed that the subcommittee endorsed the Governor's recommendation to reduce funding of community grants used for case managers by \$600,000 from the SGF though caseloads are growing (item 7). In answer to questions, a staff member stated that \$600,000 is a state grant which is not matched with any federal dollars. She noted that \$2.3 million all funds was expended out of \$5 million which was appropriated in FY 2000 for severely emotionally disturbed children. She added that \$7 million is recommended for this population of children in FY 2001. In response to Senator Downey's inquiry about why the money is not being spent to provide services to children, Ellen Piekalkiewics, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, stated that the Association is working on a reauthorization for the Medicaid waiver, but part of the problem in providing the services is due to insufficient manpower in rural areas of the state. In answer to Senator Ranson's concern that there is no accountability for expenditure of grants at the community level, Secretary Schalansky, SRS, stated that the waiver dollars are kept separately, but there was a consolidation of the grants program which gave the county commissions the flexibility to spend as they wished.

The FY 2001 subcommittee report on the **Mental Health Institutions** was presented by Senator Morris (Attachment 2). It was moved by Senator Petty and seconded by Senator Ranson that item 7 of the subcommittee report be amended to express the importance of community-based crisis services statewide, not only at the KUMC unit.

Senator Salisbury reviewed the FY 2001 subcommittee report on **Developmental Disability Institutions** (Attachment 3). Senator Salisbury moved, Senator Morris seconded, the adoption of the report. The

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motion carried on a voice vote.

It was moved by Senator Morris and seconded by Senator Jordan that the subcommittee reports on SRS - Substance Abuse, Community Mental Health Services and MHDD Administration as amended and on the Mental Health Institutions as amended be adopted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

SB 592: Armory repair and reconstruction

Copies of a balloon for **SB 592** were distributed to members (Attachment 4). The Chairman explained that **SB 592** if amended with the balloon would provide for the issuance of up to \$22 million of bonds in 5 steps over 5 years for the renovation of armories [(Section 2 (c))]. The Adjutant General has indicated that the first two years of bond and interest payments could be paid for out of the agency's capital improvements budget. Beyond that time period, the state becomes responsible for those payments. He added that the language in Section 1 (b) imposes incentives to explore the possibility of using federal dollars and other monies in order to reduce the state's obligation for paying off the bonds and requires Finance Council approval prior to each issuance of the bonds. The Chairman noted that neither inflation factors nor contingencies are built into the plan.

In response to a question, the Chairman stated that the plan is designed to have no impact on the SGF in FY 2000 or FY 2001, and is subject to appropriation. In answer to an inquiry, the Chairman stated that issuance of the bonds would have to follow the schedule as outlined in Section 2 (c), though the agency could reprioritize the projects. It was noted that the Finance Council has the authority to deny the release of additional bonds, but that is not the plan.

It was moved by Senator Morris and seconded by Senator Feleciano that **SB 592** be amended with the balloon and that **SB 592** as amended 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

Copies of a letter drafted by Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association, requesting an interim study regarding the dental service scholarship portion of the bill was distributed to members (Attachment 5). The Chairman told the Committee that he would send this letter to the Legislative Coordinating Council if the dental scholarship section were deleted from the bill. The Chairman noted three areas which he felt needed further review: how to provide more slots for dentists, how the arrangement with KUMC is working, and incentives to attract dental graduates back to Kansas, particularly in underserved areas.

Senator Salisbury moved, Senator Ranson seconded that Section 27 of the bill be amended to provide for payment of 70% of the cost of attendance (as it is for the nursing service scholarship). Senator Salisbury commented that the provisions for the ethnic minority graduate student stipends within this bill are different than that of other programs. She questioned why the Legislature would want to adopt a social policy that identifies a group as having more need, and stated that if it is the school's goal to attract ethnic minority students that should be the school's policy rather than a policy of law. It was Senator Downey's opinion that the ethnic minority program was designed to be a full fellowship program whereas the other programs were designed to direct professionals to underserved areas. The motion to amend carried on a voice vote.

Senator Lawrence moved, Senator Salisbury seconded, that the new dental service scholarship section be deleted from the bill. The motion carried on a voice vote.

It was moved by Senator Lawrence and seconded by Senator Salisbury that **SB 381** as amended be recommended favorably for passage. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m. The next meeting will be March 22, 2000.