

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 1:37 P.M. on February 15, 2005, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Representative Jason Watkins- excused  
Representative Judy Showalter- excused  
Representative Mike Kiegerl- excused  
Representative Nancy Kirk- excused

Committee staff present:

Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Rena Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes' Office  
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Pamela Johnson-Betts, Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging  
Representative Jo Ann Pottorff  
Billie Hall, President, Sunflower Foundation, Healthcare for Kansans  
Kathy Damron, Girl Scouts of Kansas  
Doug Farmer, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Ron Hein, Kansas Society of Radiologic Technologists  
Larry Buening, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Healing Arts

Others attending:

See attached list.

The committee minutes were approved for the meeting on Monday, February 14.

The Chair opened the hearing on **HB 2178**.

Pamela Johnson-Betts, Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging, spoke as a proponent. (Attachment 1) She said the bill amends the Senior Care Act to expand services to senior citizens to include preventive measures, thereby delaying the need for expensive long-term care. She said the benefits of senior wellness through preventive measures are increasingly evident, noting that the bill is consistent with the Governor's *Healthy Kansas Initiative* launched last year.

Answering a question, Ms. Johnson-Betts said the agency was looking for grants to help fund the additional programs; if the bill is passed, the additional services would be advanced as funds became available.

The Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2178**.

A motion was made and seconded to work the bill; an objection prompted the Chair to hold the bill to be

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Health and Human Services Committee at 1:37 P.M. on February 15, 2005, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

worked later.

The hearing on **HB 2208** was opened.

Representative Jo Ann Pottorff testified in support of the bill. (Attachment 2) She noted that obesity has doubled in the past 10 years and is second only to smoking as the leading cause of preventable deaths, stating that obesity-related medical expenses cost Kansans \$657 million last year, \$281 million of which was financed by Medicaid or Medicare. She commented that obesity is a growing problem in children, and she urged members to support the bill.

Billie Hall, President, Sunflower Foundation, Healthcare for Kansans, told of the Foundation's work, which was created out of the settlement agreement with Blue Cross. (Attachment 3) She stated that an alarming trend is the rise in juvenile obesity, a trend which falls within the scope of the Foundation's mission. Observing that obesity is a complex issue that defies simple solutions, she stated that the Foundation has become a convener of public/private efforts to address the problem and is collaborating with many organizations and agencies to develop measurable outcomes. She said that the immediate need is to develop a model program from which a statewide framework can provide individuals and organizations with comprehensive and effective strategies.

Kathy Damron, representing the Girl Scouts of Kansas, spoke in support of the bill. (Attachment 4) She said a long-term initiative is needed, especially for a target market such as the Girl Scouts, since obesity is the most chronic health problem facing young people.

Doug Farmer, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, spoke as a proponent. (Attachment 5) He provided statistics to highlight the problem of obesity: over 60% of Kansas adults are overweight or obese, a ratio which since 1992 has increased by 70%; 11% of Kansas children between the ages of 6 and 12 are overweight; 5.5% of all medical costs paid by Kansans or by Medicare last year were caused by obesity. He then stated that the Governor's *Healthy Kansas: Taking Steps Together* initiative addresses the intent of this bill, targeting physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and tobacco use in school children, in adults in the workplace, and in seniors. He listed ongoing activities of this initiative that overshadow the intent of the bill and requested the committee not advance the bill, since other more comprehensive measures were already underway and would supersede the bill's intent.

Answering a question, Mr. Farmer said the bill carried an estimated fiscal cost of \$300,000. A member commented that much of what the bill hoped to initiate is already being done through private entities and state agencies; he recommended that the bill not go forward at this time. Ms. Hall replied that the Foundation has made available over \$3 million to assist in developing policy options and testing models for obesity prevention, and has launched many initiatives envisioned by the bill.

The Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2208** and opened the hearing on **HB 2330**.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Health and Human Services Committee at 1:37 P.M. on February 15, 2005, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Ron Hein, representing the Kansas Society of Radiologic Technologists, gave testimony as a proponent. (Attachment 6) He said that the bill addressed only technical changes except for one substantive alteration: the Board of Healing Arts had requested a delay of the effective date for licensure to October 1, 2005 to enable the Board time to establish rules and regulations. He also requested the bill be amended on page 2, line 28, changing the term radiography to radiologic technology. (Attachment 7)

Larry Buening, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Healing Arts, also spoke as a proponent, saying that the only problem the Board had with the original licensure bill from last year was that it did not give enough time to develop the process of licensure. (Attachment 8)

The hearing on **HB 2330** was closed.

The Chair recommended working the bill. A motion was made to accept Mr. Hein's balloon amendment, changing the term radiography to radiologic technology. The motion was seconded and, after a brief discussion, the motion passed.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to recommend **HB 2330** as amended favorable for passage.

Staff briefed the committee on two bills:

**HB 2211**—enacts a new statute which will require every ambulance to carry a written explanation for several legal documents.

**HB 2158**—amends existing law to require an applicant for an attendant's certificate to meet certain requirements, extending the time of application from one year to two years and changing the term *course* to *program*. The bill would also allow the Board to issue a temporary certificate during the interim.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, 2005.