

Approved: March 20, 2012

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Marc Rhoades at 9:15 AM on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Clark Shultz - excused

Committee staff present:

Dylan Dear, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department
Michael Wales, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, First Assistant, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Nobuko Folmsbee, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Cindy O'Neal, Administrative Assistant
Kathy Holscher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Judge James Vano, 10th Judicial District, Johnson, County
Judge James Fleetwood, 18th Judicial District, Sedgwick County
Larry Zimmerman, Kansas Credit Attorney Association
Bob Keller, Sheriffs Association
Richard Newson, Johnson County Sheriff's Office

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Chairman Rhoades called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. He acknowledged Jim Wilson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, who will be retiring. It was noted that his last day will be Friday, March 16, 2013. Members thanked Mr. Wilson for his support.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS Committee at 9:15 AM on Tuesday, March 13, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Rhoades opened the hearing on **SB 425 – Court Fees and costs; establishing, operating and maintaining electronic filing, storage and management for Kansas Court system**

Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided an overview of the bill (Attachment 1).

Judge James Vano, 10th Judicial District Johnson County, provided testimony as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 2), and responded to questions from committee members. He noted that the Justice Information Management System (JIMS) has been refined and integrated to include other departments, and during the first quarter of 2012, 25,461 documents were e-files. The advantage of e-filing for the public, the bar and the court system was emphasized.

Judge James Fleetwood, 18th Judicial District, Sedgwick County, provided testimony as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 3). He referred to recommended language for inclusion in the bill. He responded to questions from committee members. The cost to set-up the e-filing system is \$1.8 million, and the operation and maintenance of the system would vary year to year, he added. As requested by a committee member, he will provide additional information on the number of document filings.

Dylan Dear, Legislative Research Department, responded to questions by committee members. He stated that the FY 2012 ending balance in the Technology Fund is approximately \$880,000 and for FY 2013 will be reduced to \$670,000.

Larry Zimmerman, Kansas Credit Attorney Association, presented testimony as an opponent of the bill (Attachment 4), and noted that he was in support of the e-filing system but opposed of increased costs. He noted that Shawnee County will be moving towards a full-court and into the state-wide e-filing system. He reviewed the process to convert documents into the new system, and concern was expressed on filing surcharges on every document processed and he recommended that fees should be placed at the front-end not on every document filed.

Bob Keller, Sheriffs Association, provided neutral testimony of the bill (Attachment 5).

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Richard Newson, Johnson County Sheriff, presented testimony in opposition of the bill (Attachment 6).

Written testimony was provided by Brady Keith, Credit Management Services, Inc. as an opponent of the bill (Attachment 7), and Tim Mulcahy, Justice Information Management Systems, neutral of the bill (Attachment 8).

Chairman Rhoades closed the hearing on the bill, and reviewed the agenda for the next committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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