

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Representative Mike Burgess, Chair, at 3:30 p.m. on March 9, 2011 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Rep. Rocky Fund - Excused

Committee staff present:

Julian Efird, Legislative Research
Iraida Orr, Legislative Research
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Linda Herrick, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Auditor
State Legislative Post Audit Division

Others attending:

(See attached list.)

Mr. Frank gave a presentation (Attachment 1) on the Legislative Post Audit efficiency audit process. He noted there are three general areas of efficiency auditing with the dates of each: Kansas Sunset Law (1978-1992); K-GOAL version 1 (1992-2008); and K-GOAL version 2 (2008 to present).

The Kansas Sunset Law was established in 1978 and required a performance audit of state agencies, boards, and commissions followed by public legislative hearings in both Chambers. The purpose of the law was to abolish selected entities unless the Legislature acted to retain them. Of the 37 agencies, boards, or programs identified and evaluated, five were abolished, two were combined, and one agency was separated to operate as its own agency.

In 1992, the Kansas Legislature replaced the Sunset Law with the Kansas Governmental Accountability Law (K-GOAL). This different approach required legislative committees to periodically review and evaluate the operations of selected state agencies to determine their necessity and to identify inefficiencies. During the sixteen years of K-GOAL's operation, two cycles of the eight-year schedule of agency reviews were completed. Four agency audits were done every year with audits available to the Legislature by the 30th calendar day of the session.

In 2008, with the bad economy, K-GOAL was revised (version 2) to be expanded to efficiency audits, as specified by the bill, on any state agency or state program. A list of the agencies to be audited is provided by the Legislative Post Auditor to the Legislative Post Audit Committee. Specified legislative committees review and evaluate the state agency audited under K-GOAL.

In 2008, the Legislative Post Audit Committee amended its rules to establish a process for identifying and approving more audits that address efficiency issues. These rules were essentially the same as the Legislature made to K-goal at the same time. Eight to ten audits are completed by December 1 of each year that look for efficiencies and opportunities for savings. The performance audits are reviewed by the Legislature during the next regular session.

An attachment gave a summary of audit findings and estimated annual savings. Another attachment was a scope statement giving background on a review of delinquent accounts receivable and what state agencies could do to improve the collection process. Mr. Frank then answered questions from the committee members.

Chair Burgess thanked Mr. Frank for his presentation and the committee thanked him for the work performed by the Legislative Post Audit Division.

The committee minutes of February 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 17 and 21 had been furnished to the committee. It was moved by Representative Ruiz, seconded by Representative Roth, and the committee voted to approve the committee minutes noted above.

The Chair asked if there was any other business, and there was none. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.