

Approved: March 16, 2012
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Les Donovan at 10:37 a.m. on March 8, 2012, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Christopher Sevedge, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Mary Jane Brueck, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Sen. Anthony Hensley
Kim Winn, Deputy Director, League of Kansas Municipalities
Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director, Unified Government Public Relations, Wyandotte County, Kansas City KS
Nathan Eberline, Associate Legislative Director and Legal Counsel, Kansas Association of Counties
Sen. Tom Holland, 3rd District, Douglas, Jefferson, and Leavenworth Counties
John Federico, representing General Motors
A.J. Shumate, Vice President of Local 31 of UAW

Others attending:

See attached list.

Sen. Les Donovan opened the meeting and opened the hearing on **SB 409 – Concerning taxation; relating to the local ad valorem tax reduction fund** and recognized Sen. Anthony Hensley, Minority Leader, as a proponent on this bill. He explained the way this bill will work. (Attachment 1) Kim Winn, Deputy Director, League of Kansas Municipalities told the committee the League supports this bill. It reinstates \$45 million in LAVTRF beginning in FY 2013. Because cities and counties are required to apply this amount specifically to property tax reduction, this bill represents an important first step in reestablishing the revenues sharing relationship between the state and local governments. (Attachment 2) Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director, Unified Government Public Relations, Wyandotte County, Kansas City KS spoke as a proponent to this bill. He said “Much of the pressure on local government mill levies has been caused in part by economic conditions since 2008, but also because of actions by the Kansas Legislature which have eroded local government tax bases and by the Legislature's refusal to fund promised, legally obligated revenue programs like LAVTR and the machinery and equipment slider.” (Attachment 3) Nathan Eberline, Associate Legislative Director and Legal Counsel, Kansas Association of Counties told the committee counties and property taxpayers have missed the LAVTRF payments since 2003 and the Kansas Association of Counties urges the legislature to reinstate them through this bill. (Attachment 4) Neutral written testimony on this bill was submitted by Luke Bell Vice President of

Public Affairs, Kansas Association of Realtors. ([Attachment 5](#))

Sen. Donovan recognized Sen. Tom Holland, 3rd District, Douglas, Jefferson, and Leavenworth Counties to speak to the committee regarding **SB 370 – Relating to property taxation; enacting the senior citizen property tax deferral act**. He said this is not new legislation. It was in a House bill in 2008. He explained how this bill, “The Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Act”, would benefit Kansans 65 and older by allowing those who qualify to defer either a portion or all ad valorem taxes levied on their homestead. There is an annual maximum limit of \$2,500.00. Sen. Holland said legislators need to do all they can to prevent Kansas seniors from being taxed out of their homes. ([Attachment 6](#)) Neutral written testimony on this bill was submitted by Luke Bell Vice President of Public Affairs, Kansas Association of Realtors. ([Attachment 7](#)) A number of questions were raised regarding who would qualify, who would monitor the program, etc.

Sen. Donovan closed that hearing and opened the hearing on **SB 415 – Concerning motor vehicles; relating to competitive bidding**. John Federico, representing General Motors, said they are eager to support this bill because it is a pro-Kansas, pro-worker bill that demonstrates Kansas' understanding that a stable workforce provides benefits that can be felt statewide. This bill has no fiscal impact. ([Attachment 8](#)) A.J. Shumate, Vice President of Local 31 of UAW in Kansas City, KS told the committee he was present on behalf of nearly 3,500 members and 4,000 retirees represented by U.A.W., and to tell the committee they are strongly in favor of this bill. ([Attachment 9](#))

Seeing no further questions or comments, Sen. Donovan closed this meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.