

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on February 21, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Rich Proehl, District #7 (written only)
Gary Beachner, Parsons, Kansas
Steven Charles, Oswego, Kansas
Doug Moses, Chetopa, Kansas
Dr. Edward E. Berger, Kansas Community College Presidents

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on **SB 155-Assessed valuation of certain school districts**

Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided a summary of the legislation proposed in **SB 155**. **SB 155** would proportionally allocate the assessed valuation of the former Kansas Army Ammunitions Plant among USDs #503, #504, #505 and #506 in Labette County. According to the Department of Education, enactment of **SB 155** would require no additional appropriation for state aid to school districts. The valuation would not change in total, only change among the districts.

Representative Rich Proehl, District #7 (written only), provided testimony in support of the proposed legislation (Attachment 1). This testimony stated the bill would allow the future property tax from development of the old Kansas Army Ammunition Plant to be shared proportionally among the school districts located in Labette County. As the property is developed by the Great Plains Development Authority over the next five to fifty years, all of southeast Kansas will benefit.

Gary Beachner, Parsons, Kansas, appeared before the committee in support of **SB 155** (Attachment 2). Mr. Beachner is currently completing his second term on the Parsons USD #503 school board and also serves on the board of directors for the Great Plains Development Authority. He stated the idea to introduce this legislation was taken from previous legislative actions which shared revenues from the potential development of racetrack gaming facilities or lottery gaming facilities with county school districts in Cherokee County, and another which shared revenues from the potential development of property used in production of ethanol with county school districts in Haskell County. As **SB 155** has no fiscal effect on the State of Kansas and does not raise taxes, he urged the approval of **SB 155**.

Steven Charles, Oswego, Kansas, owner of the Oswego Health Mart Drug Store in Oswego (Attachment 3) and Doug Moses, Chetopa, Kansas, President, USD #505 Board of Education, (Attachment 4) also appeared in support of the proposed legislation.

Senator Umbarger stated this area has played a key part of the economy of Labette County and Southeast Kansas for many years. He appreciated the school districts' coming together and working on this and coming here today so that in the future they can continue on and secure this property and get it on the tax rolls to make it part of the economic engine that drives Southeast Kansas.

The Hearing on **SB 155** was closed.

Following committee discussion, it was moved by Senator Umbarger and seconded by Senator Teichman that the committee recommend **SB 155** favorable for passage. Motion carried on a voice vote.

SB 143-Creating the postsecondary tiered technical education state aid act

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 21, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Dr. Edward E. Berger, President, of Hutchinson Community College, and representing the Kansas Community College Presidents, appeared briefly before the committee offering support of the proposed legislation in support from the Kansas Community College Presidents (Attachment 5). He reiterated that **SB 143** is a framework for funding, recognizing that the fiscal component is not included in the legislation. The legislation will provide appropriate incentives for community and technical colleges to invest in high cost/high demand programs that will build the world class workforce that is necessary for the Kansas economy to rebound. One component of the bill is the repeal of the Community College operating grant, establishing a fund for non-tiered course offerings which will be distributed by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Dr. Blake Flanders, Vice President for Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents, appeared before the committee providing additional information and explanation as requested by the committee. A breakdown of the legislation was provided by section with a description of the provisions in each section (Attachment 6). Distribution of state funding under current guidelines, as well as under the proposed new funding structure, was also provided (Attachment 7).

It was moved by Senator Vratil, seconded by Senator Teichman, to amend SB 143, Section 18, to make the bill effective upon publication in the Statute book. Motion carried on a voice vote.

It was moved by Senator Vratil, seconded by Senator Owens, to amend SB 143, Section 4, line 27, to read "by a community college or ~~for~~ by the institute of technology for establishing". Following a brief discussion and the statement from Julene Miller, Board of Regents, that the bill was purposely written that way because Washburn is the entity that actually receives the funding and they wanted to make it clear that it is *for* the Institute of Technology, the motion by Senator Vratil and second by Senator Owens was withdrawn.

It was moved by Senator Teichman, seconded by Senator Abrams, that the committee recommend SB 143, as amended, favorable for passage. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.