

Approved: February 9, 2000  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 11:00 a.m. on February 8, 2000 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, KLRD  
Rae Anne Davis, KS Legislative Research Department  
Debra Hollon, KS Legislative Research Department  
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes  
Michael Corrigan, Asst. Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Bromich, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman  
Ronda Miller, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Lt. Col. Donald Brownlee, Kansas Highway Patrol  
Former Attorney General, Robert Stephen  
David Lake, Director, Board of Emergency Medical Services  
Connie McAdam, President of Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association  
Loren C. Anderson, Kansas Sheriff's Legislation Chairman  
Frank Denning, Kansas Peace Officers' Association  
Timothy J. Driscoll, St. John Chief of Police  
Pat Lehman, Kansas Fire Service Alliance  
Gale Haag, State Fire Marshal  
Larry Welch, Director, Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Feleciano moved, Senator Lawrence seconded, that bill draft 9rs 2124 as requested by the Adjutant General be introduced. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chairman announced that the purpose of today's meeting would be to hear those conferees who oppose or have taken a neutral position on **SB 387** and **HB 2470**.

**SB 387:** Establishing the department of public safety

**HB 2570:** Creating a task force on consolidation of public safety agencies

Lt. Col. Donald Brownlee, Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, appeared before the Committee to review both the advantages and disadvantages of consolidation of public safety agencies. (Attachment 1) He asked that legislators consider whether the costs of this proposal would have more of an impact on service to the public and whether other state law enforcement organizations support consolidation.

Former Attorney Robert T. Stephen appeared before the Committee in opposition to **SB 387**. He reviewed his written testimony. (Attachment 2)

David Lake, Director of the Board of Emergency Medical Services, testified in opposition to **SB 387** and distributed copies of his written testimony. (Attachment 3) It was his opinion that the Board of Emergency Medical Services should be recognized as a public health agency rather than a public safety agency.

Ms. Connie McAdam, President of the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association, reviewed her written testimony in opposition to **SB 387**. She reiterated that the focus of EMS has changed in the course of the last thirty years to health care. (Attachment 4)

Mr. Loren C. Anderson, Kansas Sheriff's Legislation Chairman, appeared before the Committee in

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opposition to **SB 387** and reviewed his written testimony. (Attachment 5) There was some Committee discussion regarding how consolidation would impact the operations of the sheriffs' departments.

Mr. Frank Denning, Kansas Peace Officers' Association, testified as an opponent of **SB 387**. He provided written testimony for the Committee to consider. (Attachment 6)

Timothy J. Driscoll, St. John Chief of Police, appeared on behalf of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police in opposition to **SB 387**. He reviewed his written testimony which was distributed to members. (Attachment 7)

Mr. Pat Lehman appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Kansas Fire Service Alliance and presented testimony in opposition to **SB 387** and **HB 2570**. (Attachment 8)

Mr. Gale Haag, State Fire Marshal, appeared as an opponent of **SB 387** and reviewed his written testimony. (Attachment 9) He told members that he believes consolidation will create another level of bureaucracy which will slow down the process of providing services requested by local entities.

The Chairman called upon Mr. Larry Welch, Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, to address the Committee. He reviewed his written testimony in opposition to **SB 387**. There was discussion regarding Director Welch's reference to "a system founded on checks and balances."

Written testimony in opposition to **SB 387** from Attorney General Carla Stovall was distributed to Committee members. (Attachment 11)

The Chairman closed the public hearings on **SB 387** and **HB 2570** and stated that action would be taken on a later date.

It was moved by Senator Salmans and seconded by Senator Lawrence that bill draft 9rs 2139 as requested by Senator Salmans be introduced. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Morris moved, Senator Salmans seconded, that bill draft 9rs 2251 be introduced as requested by Senator Morris. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Copies of the Budget Analysis for FY 2001 were made available to Committee members. (Copies are kept on file in the Legislative Research Department).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2000.