

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Karin Brownlee at 8:45 a.m. on March 28, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes
Lea Gerard, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Patricia L. Bossert
Wayne H. Maichel
Tamera J. Nelson

Others attending: See attached list.

Confirmation Hearings:

The Committee considered the appointments of Patricia L. Bossert, Wayne H. Maichel, Lawrence L. McCants and Tamera J. Nelson to be board members of Kansas Inc (Attachment 1).

Patricia L. Bossert addressed the committee and provided a brief history of her background and experience (Attachment 2). She owns, operates and manages two small businesses and retail property in Topeka. Patricia Bossert is a graduate of South Dakota State University and continued her education by receiving the Certified Marketing Executive designation and Employment Law Accreditation. She is also a graduate of the 1996 Leadership Topeka class.

Wayne H. Maichel addressed the committee and provided a brief history of his background and experience. He is Executive Vice President of the Kansas AFL-CIO and have served in the position since 1980. Wayne Maichel stated Kansas Inc. is important to the working people of Kansas. He helped in the mid 1980's when they put together with the legislature the trilogy of economic development which was Kansas Inc, KTEC and reinforced the Commerce Department. Wayne Maichel looks forward to serving on the Kansas Inc Board in behalf of the working people of the state.

Senator Brownlee questioned how Mr. Maichel feels that the Union sector is interfacing with the non-union workforce in a right to work state. Mr. Maichel stated that anything he does here at the legislature whether it's workers compensation, unemployment comp or any issue that he has worked on would benefit all workers in the state not just union workers. In the area of economic development, he ties that closely with education and training. There are not enough skilled workers and the State of Kansas needs workforce development. The union has made an effort to work with students in high school by tutoring them in algebra and geometry to be able to take an apprentice test for a pipe fitter, welder or electrician.

Tamera J. Nelson addressed the committee and provided a brief history of her background and experience. She graduated from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering and has worked for Caterpillar for almost 15 years. Ms. Nelson has held many positions with Caterpillar including process development, engineering design, quality, and supervision. She was instrumental in all aspects of financial analysis of site selection to overseeing the building construction of the Caterpillar Mobil-trac System (Attachment 3).

Senator Brownlee explained to Committee members that Lawrence L. McCants, Goodland, Kansas was out of town and unable to attend the Commerce Committee meeting.

There being no further questions committee Senator Brownlee asked for Committee action.

Senator Jordan moved, seconded by Senator Emler to confirm the appointment of Patricia L. Bossert, Wayne H. Maichel, Lawrence L. McCants and Tamera J. Nelson, members to the Kansas Inc. Board. Motion carried.

Senate Substitute HB 2034—Establishing enhanced 911 system.

Senator Brownlee stated that HB 2034 has come back to the Commerce Committee through Way and Means as a result of a tie vote on the Senate Floor. She has visited with representatives of municipalities to get a sense of what their thoughts are regarding this bill and has contacted the FCC and an organization called CTIA which has to do with emergency communications. CTIA forwarded a copy of the Florida laws that deals with a centralized fund and some of their language would be very helpful for this bill.

The committee discussed language changes in the bill regarding a 20% “down payment” that would be retained by the wireless carriers and 20% would be sent out to the municipalities on a monthly basis. They also discussed that the municipality or provider may not be doing anything with E-911 because they don’t have a firm request of a wireless carrier or may not be ready, but under this concept they would not be getting money each month. There needs to be clarification on the 20% and how this would work for counties to buy and set-up their equipment to get the PSAP going. The addition of a deadline for implementation was also discussed as the municipalities were interested in this.

Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes will amend HB 2034 with the balloon amendments and provide the amended version to the Committee chair.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.