

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on January 29, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research  
Deb Hollon, Legislative Research  
Mitch Rice, Revisor of Statutes  
Jodie Anspaugh, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Brad Smoot, Legislative Counsel for The American Insurance Association  
Philip S. Harness, Acting Director of Workers Compensation  
April Holman, Legislative Research

Others attending: See attached list.

Judy Moeller requested that the committee introduce a bill on enhanced 911. This bill would remove the exemption for wireless and charge an additional twenty-five cents for public safety revolving long fund that would be administered by the KCC and would be given to small rural counties to build their infrastructure. Chairperson Brownlee further explained the bill. Sen. Steineger moved to introduce the bill. Sen. Brungardt seconded. The motion carried.

Senator Jordan introduced two bills. The first was in regards to the Joint Committee on Economic Development from the interim, regarding the development of a state OSHA agency. Sen. Jordan moved to introduce the bill. Sen. Emler seconded. The motion carried. Sen. Jordan conceptually introduced a bill regarding agratourism, specifically, liability issues with farmers who would like to get involved with the tourism industry. Sen. Jordan moved to introduce the bill. Sen. Emler seconded. The motion carried.

Chairperson Brownlee welcomed Brad Smoot, Legislative Counsel for The American Insurance Association to testify regarding workers compensation data collection. (Attachment 1) Mr. Smoot reviewed the history of data collection statutes, the cost of data collection, the value of data collection, and reports of injury. He concluded that it is time for lawmakers to review the statutes to determine if the benefits of current data collection requirements outweigh the costs and to further explore whether there are new methods of data gathering that might better serve all concerned.

Chairperson Brownlee welcomed Phil Harness, Acting Director of Workers Compensation, to the committee. (Attachment 2)

- A FROI (first report of injury) is filed if three variables are present: the injury occurs during the

CONTINUATION SHEET

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course of the employee's employment, the employer or the employee's supervisor has knowledge of the injury, and the injury is sufficient to wholly or partially incapacitate the person injured from labor or service for more than the remainder of the day, shift, or turn upon which such injuries were sustained.

- The 2002 amendments to the Workers Compensation Act included a provision to make voluntary (by the insurance carriers, group pools or self-insured employers) the submission of claim information pursuant to the standards of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Release 1, as promulgated by the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC).
- The Division has contracted with a vendor to properly map the elements of the FROI into its database to the hand-coding of certain elements of the FROI, which is then keyed into the database, will be automated.

Mr. Harness answered questions about his presentation. He does not recommend any statute changes.

Chairperson Brownlee moved to conceptually introduce a bill to eliminate the open claims information. Sen. Emler seconded. The motion carried.

Chairperson Brownlee welcomed April Holman from Legislative Research to speak about the housing authority. Ms. Holman distributed copies of **HB 2205** from the 2001 Session, its supplemental note, and a chart comparing the state housing agencies and programs of six states. (Attachments 3, 4, and 5) Every state but Kansas has a housing authority. Kansas has much less appropriated for state housing. **HB 2205** ensures that Kansas has appropriate housing all over the state, as businesses continue to expand and locate in Kansas. Ms. Holman answered questions about the housing authority.

Chairperson Brownlee conceptually introduced a bill on a housing authority. Sen. Jordan moved to introduce the bill. Sen. Emler seconded. The motion carried.

Senator Bunten moved that the minutes from the January 21 and January 22 meetings be approved. Senator Emler seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2003 at 8:30 a.m.