

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Morris at 11:55 a.m. on April 29, 2004, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator David Kerr- excused
Senator Larry Salmans- excused

Committee staff present:

J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Leah Robinson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Administrative Analyst
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mary Ellen Conlee, Coalition for Opportunity
Dr. Kent Hurn, Assistant Lobbyist, United School Administrators of Kansas
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

HB 2688--Kansas use law procedures, establishing the state use law committee

Staff briefed the committee on the bill. The Chairman welcomed the following conferees who testified on the bill:

Mary Ellen Conlee, representing Coalition for Opportunity, a group of Kansas manufacturers employing more than 400 people who are blind and disabled, testified in support of **HB 2688** (Attachment 1). Ms. Conlee addressed concerns about the state use law program and eligibility concerns with current law. She distributed copies of the State of Kansas 2004 Products and Services (copy is on file with the Kansas Legislative Research Department).

Dr. Kent Hurn, Assistant Lobbyist, United School Administrators of Kansas, testified in opposition to **HB 2688** (Attachment 2). Dr. Hurn asked that the Senate Ways and Means committee exempt school districts from the waiver process. He felt the agency should be allowed to bid as any other qualified vendor. Dr. Hurn also explained that they believe the local board of education is in the best position to determine the specifications for goods and services and the low cost bidder for the goods and services.

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, testified in opposition to **HB 2688** (Attachment 3). Ms. Gjerstad explained that the district's purchasing director is very concerned with the bill and how a new layer of bureaucracy and paperwork for schools to buy goods and now services would impact their mission to meet the needs of 100 schools in a timely and cost effective manner. She suggested that the vendors, state agencies (basically the Kansas Department of Administration) and the school districts meet during the Fall and report back during the 2005 Session.

There being no further conferees to come before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **HB 2688**.

The Chairman directed that the Kansas Department of Administration meet with all interested parties regarding **HB 2688** during the interim to discuss the issues contained in the bill and report back to the 2005 Legislature.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE at 11:55 a.m. on April 29, 2004, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Senator Jordan moved, with a second by Senator Helgerson, that a letter be sent from the Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee to the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Administration regarding the study on **HB 2688**. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2004.