Approved : January 30, 2001

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenny Wilk at 9:05 a.m. on January 17, 2001 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research

Rae Anne Davis, Legislative Research Amy Kramer, Legislative Research Julian Efrid, Legislative Research Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Speaker Kent Glasscock

Secretary Charles Simmons, Department of Corrections

Jack Hawn, Deputy Secretary, KPERS

Others attending: See Attached

A graph explaining components of the Governor's FY 2002 pay plan recommendations was distributed by the Legislative Research Department to the Committee (Attachment 1).

Secretary Charles Simmons, Department of Corrections, reported on the impact of SB 323 regarding the number of offenders in all areas of the Kansas criminal justice system (Attachment 2). He reviewed the major provisions of the bill which have lowered offender population levels and reduced projected KDOC capacity requirements. Caseloads for parole officers have been significantly reduced. Even though the inmate population has been lowered, there has been no significant impact on staffing in the facilities. KDOC is still attempting to identify appropriate locations for day reporting centers in major cities in Kansas. Such facilities are usually not located in residential neighborhoods as they are considered to be a type of parole office. Cooperation with local government leaders, city officials, and the legislative delegation from the area has been very important in designating the sites for such centers. Staffing problems remain especially in the Lansing State Prison. In order to cope with the 60 vacancies, overtime of regular employees (as much as 50-60 hours in a pay period), the hiring of 19-year olds as guards, and the consolidation of existing posts which would not endanger security are being used as stop-gap measures. However, the hiring of 19-year olds is being made a temporary measure only at Lansing Correctional Facility so the change could be evaluated at a later date. Many of the 40 states surveyed by the KDOC hire prison guards below the age of 21. The 19 year old Correctional Officers I cannot be promoted until they reach age 21. Bonuses are being paid to correctional officers who recruit officers who stay for a prescribed period of time, incentive bonuses paid to the recruits, and general pay increases of at least 5%.

In compliance with 2000 **SB 323**, judges do not review cases of reduced or intermediate level post release supervision, only cases of extended parole. The Department has no discretion in the release of a inmate from any program including incarceration if the individual meets the criteria established by **SB 323** unless that individual is a convicted sexual predator or thought to be mentally ill. In such cases they are referred for further evaluation. Secretary Simmons reviewed the on-going maintenance funding needs for the 428 buildings (3.5 million square feet) in the KDOC system. At least \$5 million is needed per year to address this need and this does not include any funds for expansion. The success of the changes made by **SB 323** for conditional violators cannot be determined for at least three years from implementation.

Speaker Glasscock urged the Committee to work in a bipartisan and creative way in the development of a budget which will meet the needs of Kansas (Attachment 3)

Hearing on HB 2022 – Eliminating statutory prohibition on investments by KPERS in financial institutions

Julian Efrid, Legislative Research Department, gave the history of the constitutional amendment passed in November 2000 which modified the prohibition against the state being a stockholder in any banking institution and to allow retirement systems, such as KPERS, to own stocks in banks (Attachment 4). This bill lifts the prohibition of the Board of Trustees of KPERS of investing in banking institutions, savings and loans, and credit unions.

Testimony in favor of the bill was presented by Jack Hawn, Deputy Secretary of KPERS (Attachment 5).

Chairman Wilk announced the hearing was closed.

Representative Melvin Neufeld moved to report the bill favorably and place it on the Consent Calendar. Motion was seconded by Representative Minor. Motion carried.

Representative Bob Bethell moved for the introduction of legislation which would allow the Board of Healing Arts to pay expert witnesses on an hourly basis. Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Bob Bethell moved for the introduction of a Concurrent Resolution which would ask for recognition and the support of research to arrest the problem of congestive heart failure. Motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

Representative Neufeld moved for the introduction of legislation which would allow the LCC to accelerate the audit for KPERS to the year FY 2001 as well as FY 2002. Motion was seconded by Representative Pottorff. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2001.