

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Lane at 9:10 a.m. on January 18, 2001 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:      Rep. John Ballou - excused  
   Rep. Joe Humerickhouse - excused  
   Rep. Dan Johnson - excused  
   Rep. Doug Patterson - excused  
   Rep Rick Rehorn - excused

Committee staff present:              Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes  
   Renae Jeffries, Revisor of Statutes  
   Jerry Donaldson, Legislative Research Department  
   Bev Adams, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:      Martha Gabehart, KDHR

Others attending: See attached list

**Introduction of Bills**

Rep. Ruff made a motion that the committee introduce a bill concerning employers access to injured workers health records in Workers Compensation suits. Rep. Swenson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Presentation by Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns**

Martha Gabehart, Director of Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC), Kansas Department of Human Resources (KDHR) appeared before the committee to give an overview of what was happening in KCDC concerning any legislation that might come before the Legislature concerning the commission. She furnished the members with booklets titled: *The American With Disabilities Act, Your Employment Rights as an Individual With a Disability; The Americans With Disabilities Act, Your Responsibilities as an Employer; and The Americans with Disabilities Act, Questions and Answers*. The booklets are available at her office, 1430 SW Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1877.

She informed the committee of a case before the Supreme Court. The case began as a complaint under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) When it reached the United States Supreme Court, it was combined with another case and it became an issue of whether or not the individuals involved could sue the State of Alabama under federal law.

Ms. Gabehart also talked about: A possible bill to increase the State's Minimum Wage; Medicaid Buy-In for people with disabilities who become gainfully employed and leave the Social Security rolls; and AgrAbility, a proposed program to help farmers with disabilities access technology that would help them continue farming. She answered several questions from the committee during her presentation. ([Attachment 1](#))

**Overview of Kansas Workforce Investment Partnership (KWIP)**

Barb Reavis, Workforce Development Coordinator, Office of the Governor, gave the committee an overview of KWIP, its makeup and purpose. The KWIP Council was mandated by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The council is composed of representatives from state government, business, education, community based organizations, and labor. The council meets five times a year. When it was established, it blended three existing groups which had similar missions. Its purpose is to provide information to the Governor, the Legislature, public and private agencies, and the general public on matters pertaining to: employment and training plans, programs, services

CONTINUATION SHEET

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and facilities. The council also assists the Governor in the development and the continued improvement of a seamless, collaborative, universally accessible state-wide workforce investment system and to oversee the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. The partner agencies in workforce development are the Kansas Department of Human Resources (KDHR), Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), Commerce and Housing, Kansas Regents and Education.

The WIA of 1998 was implemented in Kansas in July of 2000. The state is divided into five areas with more than 20 "One Stop Career Centers." There are still turf issues between the agencies, but KWIP is working to define their role as well as the state and local roles of the agencies involved. They are studying the funding flow to try to find the "400 million" that is supposed to be available for "One Stop." Ms. Reavis answered several questions from the committee during her presentation. (Attachment 2)

Rep. Welshimer made a motion for the committee to introduce a bill that would increase the state minimum wage to follow the guidelines of the federal minimum wage. Rep. Levinson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Lane adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2001.