

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on January 29, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research Department  
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statues  
Sherman Parks, Revisor of Statues  
Lea Gerard, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Stan Butler, Technology Project Manager  
Lt. Governor Sherrer, Department of  
Commerce & Housing

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairperson Karin Brownlee introduced Lt. Governor Sherrer, Secretary Department of Commerce and Housing. Mr. Sherrer introduced Stan Butler, Technology Project Manager for the Department of Commerce and Housing.

Mr. Butler gave a demonstration of what occurs when a customer accesses the Department of Commerce and Housing Website. This website is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and has search capabilities to serve the business customer. The website was organized so that it is familiar and easy to navigate for both new and existing customers. Some of the primary things downloaded from this website are documents, forms and publications. This allows the business customer to continue to do business by getting reports and application forms after business hours or on the weekend. One of the most popular publications that is downloaded from this website is the "Steps To Success Guide" which is a resource text for starting a business in Kansas. The website is [www.kansascommerce.com](http://www.kansascommerce.com). Stan Butler stated they are currently redesigning their Travel and Tourism Website that is targeted for the leisure traveler. The new website will be available March 1, 2002 and will be found at [www.travelkansas.com](http://www.travelkansas.com). The current travel database contains over 9,000 individual destinations in the State of Kansas and available to anyone in the world.

Lt. Governor Sherrer then presented an overview on "*The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing Fiscal Year 2001 Annual Report*". (A copy is on file in the Legislative Research Department). The Business Development Division worked on business recruitment efforts for the State of Kansas which brought in nearly 5,700 new jobs with a total payroll of almost \$200 million, and approximately \$300 million in new capital investment. The agency assisted nearly 200 Kansas companies regarding retention/expansion projects and contributed to the business success of 116 companies with workforce training programs. Mr. Sherrer stated each year the expectations are to have better and higher results yet for fiscal year 2001 they were granted \$23.2 million, for year 2002 the amount was \$20.1 million and the Governor's directive for 2003 is \$19.1 million. The Economic Development Funding for the Department of Commerce and Housing is on a downward spiral.

Senator Wagle requested Lt. Governor Sherrer provide Committee members with the three reference materials he mentioned that had present various rankings of the Kansas business climate.

Senator Jordan quizzed Lt. Governor Sherrer regarding economic development initiatives for this year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2002 at 8:30 a.m.