

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Emler at 9:30 A.M. on January 26, 2006 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bobbi Mariani, Director, LIEAP
Steve Weatherford, President, KHRC

Others in attendance: See attached list

Bill Introduction

Tom Day, legislative liaison, Kansas Corporation Commission requested the introduction of two legislative proposals . The first proposal will allow the Commission to promulgate rules and regulations for the Kansas Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act, KSA Chapter 66, article 18. The second proposal will amend KSA 50-675a, which deals with notification requirements under the Kansas consumer protection act. (Attachment 1)

Moved by Senator Taddiken, seconded by Senator Petersen, introduction of the two legislative proposals from KCC. Motion carried.

Briefing on SRS Energy Assistance

Bobby Mariani, Director of Economic and Employment Services for SRS, explained the Federal program LIEAP, which is administered by SRS, which provides a one-time a year benefit to eligible low-income households to assist them in paying their heating bills. (Attachment 2)

Briefing on Weatherization

Steve Weatherford, president of Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC), briefed the committee on the Governor's energy efficiency and affordability initiatives. Governor Sebelius presented her WARM (Weatherization, Assistance, Retrofitting and Maintenance) Kansas initiative, supporting the ideas of "energy efficiency and affordability" for low income citizens of Kansas. The initiative included the Attic Insulation Program, the Home Improvement Energy Efficiency Loan Program and utility assistance grants to help low-income Kansans with high energy bills. (Attachment 3)

Paul Johnson, lobbyist, noted more effort should be made to provide weatherization in order to lower the payment on energy bills. More data is needed on the citizens who are in the greatest need of this assistance.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Reitz, seconded by Senator Apple, minutes for the Senate Utilities meetings held on January 18, 2006, January 19, 2006, January 24, 2006 and January 25, 2006 be approved. Motion carried.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 3