

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 3:36 P.M. on February 21, 2008, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Kelley, King, McLeland, Sloan, Tapanelli, Frownfelter, and Ruiz, all of whom were excused.

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renae Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Gary Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor

Others attending:

See attached list.

The minutes for February 18, 19, and 20 were approved. (Motion, Representative Swenson; second, Representative McLachlan)

The Chair asked Representative Wilk to moderate a discussion with Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, regarding creating a sunset statute for state agencies.

Ms. Hinton provided a number of documents to assist members in setting a direction, noting that Attachment 1 provided sample of "pilot" agencies or programs for a sunset review, such as:

- Multiple agencies grouped according to topic, as, for example, the agricultural agencies;
- Selected individual agencies, such as the Kansas Sentencing Commission; or
- A division or certain programs within a larger agency, such as the Division of Purchases in the Department of Administration.

Ms. Hinton submitted a series of potential questions to illustrate an approach to a sunset proposal (Attachment 2). She replied to a question that an audit would ask different questions to the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) than it would to outside contractors working with SRS. She said the questions she listed are typical of states that have sunset laws.

Ms. Hinton announced that, following the last Post Audit Committee meeting, Post Audit will be setting a new direction with about half its resources, focusing its work on questions related to efficiency and cost savings. She explained that a risk-assessment model would deal with a lower tier of agency practices and would not be considered a sunset review process.

To illustrate the sunset process, Ms. Hinton referenced documents from the Texas Sunset Commission, noting

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the comments regarding the Alcohol Beverage Control (Attachments 3 and 4), the Board of Nursing (Attachment 5), and the Animal Health Commission (Attachment 6). She said Texas has a long-standing reputation with the legislature for effective review of agencies.

Representative Wilk requested that the Texas sunset review process be distributed to all members (Attachment 7). Ms. Hinton observed that the sunset process does not focus on efficiency or cost-savings; it only reviews how well the present process is working. Members discussed possible directions and actions to take, but no decisions were made. Ms. Hinton invited the Committee to request an audit or suggest a pilot project. Representative Wilk suggested working with Post Audit to craft a scope statement and decide on a particular case study.

Ms. Hinton referenced the state agencies that could be reviewed on a periodic basis (Attachment 8). Staff distributed a list of all state agencies, with an accompanying mission statement for each agency (Attachment 9), and an organization chart for all state agencies (Attachment 10).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. No further meeting was scheduled.