

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sharon Schwartz at 9:00 A.M. on March 28, 2007, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Virginia Beamer - excused
Representative Mitch Holmes - excused
Representative Tom Sawyer - excused
Representative Kevin Yoder - excused
Representative Jason Watkins - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Becky Krahl, Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Legislative Research Department
Aaron Klaassen, Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Chief of Staff
Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Reginald Robinson, Board of Regents
Representative Brenda Landwehr
Don Jordan, Secretary, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Stuart Little, on behalf of the Association of Community Health Centers

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Testimony on **HB 2593** by Dr. Reginald Robinson
- Attachment 2 Testimony on **HB 2594** by Don Jordan

Hearing on HB 2593 - Postsecondary institutions; infrastructure improvement projects; financing.

Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department, explained highlights of **HB 2593** and the section where they are located including:

- Section 5 - \$300 million Infrastructure Loan Program - \$200 million available for state education institutions and \$100 million available for loans to community colleges.
- Section 9 - Restricts the use of tuition.
- Section 10 - Establishment of the Regents Deferred Maintenance Oversight Board.
- Section 11 - Addresses the use of the state architect.
- Section 13 - Establishing of the technology upgrade project competitive matching grant program.
- Section 14 - Future maintenance reserve fund.
- Section 15 - Prepare an inventory of all buildings and facilities and determine those to be obsolete and not in service.
- Section 16 - Increasing non-resident tuition to the national average.
- Section 20 - Maintaining interest on certain fee funds.
- Section 22 - Allowing certain counties to impose a countywide retailers' sales tax and pledge the revenue received to the financing of infrastructure improvement projects at a state education institution located within such county.
- Section 23 - Reserve fund for the crumbling classrooms debt payment fund.

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes, noted that some language has been omitted in error from the bill addressing property tax relief in Sedgwick County.

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There were no proponents or neutral conferees on **HB 2593** to appear before the Committee.

Chair Schwartz recognized Dr. Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Board of Regents, who appeared before the Committee in opposition to **HB 2593** (Attachment 1). Dr. Robinson stated that although there are sections of **HB 2593** of which the Board of Regents approve, there is also a number of provisions of the bill on which they strongly have opposition.

Responding to a question from the Committee concerning why maintenance projects have not been performed at the universities on a timely basis, Dr. Robinson indicated that there has not been a dedicated stream of funding for maintenance projects. With regard to technology upgrades, Dr. Robinson stated that funding comes from a variety of sources, noting that some universities attach a fee to tuition to be used to fund technology upgrades.

Because of the number of questions still unanswered and time restraints, the hearing will be continued.

The Chair announced that the hearing on HB 2593 will be continued at a later date.

Hearing on HB 2594 - Joint committee on social and rehabilitation services oversight.

Susan Kannarr, Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2594** would create the Joint Committee on Social and Rehabilitation Services Oversight consisting of 12 members, serving a 2-year term. The committee would have the authority to meet at any time and any place within the State on call of the chair, would have the exclusive responsibility to study and monitor the operations and decisions of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) concerning mental health reform and services provided by the Department with regard to children. The Joint Committee would have the authority to study any other issue deemed necessary and introduce legislation. Provisions of the bill would retire on July 1, 2015.

Representative Brenda Landwehr appeared in support of **HB 2594** and noted the need for an oversight committee when major changes are made.

Chair Schwartz recognized Don Jordan, Secretary, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), who presented testimony in support of **HB 2594** (Attachment 2).

The Chair recognized Stuart Little, who appeared on behalf of the Association of Community Health Centers, and stated their support of **HB 2594**.

Robin Clements appeared on behalf of the child welfare companies and voiced their support for **HB 2594**.

There were no opponents or those with a neutral position to appear before the Committee.

The hearing on HB 2594 was closed.

Discussion and Action on HB 2594 - Joint committee on social and rehabilitation services oversight.

Representative Bethell moved to recommend **HB 2594** favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey.

Representative Henry made a substitute motion to amend **HB 2594**, Page 3, Line 15, following the words "mental health reform", by inserting "developmental disability reform". The motion was seconded by Representative Bethell. Motion carried.

Some members of the Committee had concerns as to how the Joint Committee, as proposed by the legislation, would work differently from the current committees who already review these procedures. It was noted that this is an oversight committee to address issues when the Legislature

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is not in session.

Representative Bethell renewed the motion to recommend **HB 2594** favorable for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 9:00 a.m. on April 2, 2007.

Sharon Schwartz, Chair