

Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Emler at 9:30 A.M. on March 20, 2008 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes  
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

David Springe, CURB  
Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy

Others in attendance: See enclosed sheet

Chair opened the hearing on:

**HB 2681 - Review of regulations and laws with the intent of promoting nuclear industrial development**

Revisor noted **HB 2681** would repeal KSA 48-1604 that requires several state agencies to study the need for changes in state law arising from the presence in Kansas of nuclear materials and facilities.

Proponent:

Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy, noted the repeal of K.S.A. 48-1604 will not prevent state agencies from initiating or pursuing these studies. (Attachment 1)

Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2681**.

Chair opened the hearing on:

**HB 2919 - CURB: negotiation for contracts for professional services**

Revisor noted **HB 2919** would authorize CURB to negotiate contracts for professional services.

Proponent:

David Springe, Consumer Counsel, Citizens' Utility Ratepayers Board, noted the language in **HB 2919** is drawn directly from an existing agency budget proviso; therefore, the agency already follows the procedures in negotiating contracts for professional services. The bill would formalize these procedures. (Attachment 2)

Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2919**.

Chair continued discussion and possible action on **HB 2637**.

Question was directed to SRS as to how often they provided Lifeline updated information to the utility. SRS indicated updates could be provided as required (once or twice a year) and also noted SRS provides information only on the current customers of the utility.

Moved by Senator Apple, seconded by Senator Taddiken, **HB 2919** be amended into **HB 2637**. Motion carried. "No" vote recorded for Senator Francisco.

Moved by Senator Petersen, seconded by Senator Lee, to amend **HB 2637** on page 10, line 7 to change the date from July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2008. Motion carried (Attachment 3) z2637h2.

Moved by Senator Lee, to amend **HB 2637** on page 10, line 7 by changing date to '2010'. Motion failed due

CONTINUATION SHEET

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to lack of a second. (Attachment 4) z2637h1

Moved by Senator Lee, seconded by Senator Apple, to amend **HB 2637** on line 30 by inserting new language with one word change from 'lower' to 'adjust' and to return the stricken language on line 28 to the bill. Motion failed by vote of 3 yes and 5 no (Attachment 5) z2637g1

Moved by Senator Lee, to amend **HB 2637** on page 8, line 28 by changing date to 2010. Motion failed due to lack of a second. (Attachment 6) z2637g2

Moved by Senator Lee, seconded by Senator Apple, to amend **HB 2637**, z2637g1, by adding language to indicate rates could not be adjusted more than 2.5% per year of the CPI-U rate. Motion carried.  
(Attachment 5)

Chair asked Revisor staff to bring an updated balloon with the amendments passed in this meeting so that work could be continued on **HB 2637** at the next Senate Utilities meeting on Monday, March 24, 2008.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 6