

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on March 3, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jennifer Horchem, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Kasha Kelly
Dr. Richard Burke, President, Dodge City Community College
Glenn Kerbs, General Counsel, Dodge City Community College (written only)
William Wojciechowski, President, Pratt Community College
Tony Crouch, Executive Vice President of Business Services, Cowley County Community College
Diane Duffy, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Kansas Board of Regents
Blake Flanders, Vice President for Workforce Development, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on HB 2252 - Postsecondary technical education, funding

Chairman Huntington opened the hearing on **HB 2252**.

Representative Kasha Kelly on behalf of herself, Representative Pat George, and Representative Mitch Holmes, sponsors of **HB 2252**, spoke in support of the bill to address discrepancies in funding for Dodge City Community College, Pratt Community College, and Cowley County Community College. She indicated that they are having a balloon amendment drafted that would limit the scope of the bill.

Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that **HB 2252** creates a new statute and repeals several others. Subsection (a) sets out the definitions for the section; Subsection (b) directs the State Board of Regents to develop a credit hour funding distribution formula for postsecondary technical education; and Subsection (c) directs that such formula is to be based on a fair and equal distribution of moneys among all technical colleges and community colleges. According to the fiscal note, the costs associated with passage of this bill could be absorbed within the Board of Regents Postsecondary Technical Education Authority's budget. The bill could alter funding to individual institutions. (Attachment 1)

Dr. Richard Burke, President, Dodge City Community College, testified in support of **HB 2252** focusing on the inequities that have occurred over a period of years. He explained that the three community colleges--Pratt Community College, Cowley County Community College, and Dodge City Community College--which merged with technical schools prior to passage of SB 345 in 1999 have received less for vocational funding than other Kansas community colleges. They are asking that these inequities be corrected and all institutions be funded at the same fair and equal rate. (Attachment 2)

Background documentation submitted by Glenn Kerbs, General Counsel, Dodge City Community College, in support of **HB 2252** was referred to in Dr. Burke's presentation. (Attachment 3)

William Wojciechowski, President, Pratt Community College, testified in support of **HB 2252**. He stated that passage of SB 345 by the 1999 legislature had some unintended consequences which caused technical education funding inequities: 1) Reduced technical funding for three colleges already merged with area vocational schools, Pratt Community College, Cowley County Community College, and Dodge City Community College, by 12.5 percent while increasing that same funding for other colleges by 28 percent, and 2) Added an incentive for area vocational schools to merge without mention of including the three colleges that were already merged. Local taxpayers of Ford, Cowley and Pratt Counties are subsidizing workforce

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development training due to this disparity and differential funding. ([Attachment4](#))

Representative Pat George applauded the committee for passage of **HB 2003** to address this inequity. He just wants to get something done.

Tony Crouch, Executive Vice President of Business Services, Cowley County Community College, appeared in support of **HB 2252**. He stated that there are now 9 community colleges combined with area vocational technical schools; however, of the six combined institutions formed prior to this fiscal year, state funding for Cowley, Pratt and Dodge City is exclusively through the community college operating grant. At the same time, Hutchinson, Johnson County and Coffeyville receive state funding through the postsecondary technical aid grant in addition to the community college operating grant. It is this difference in funding methodologies this bill addresses. ([Attachment 5](#))

Diane Duffy, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Kansas Board of Regents, and Blake Flanders, Vice President for Workforce Development, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, appeared in opposition to **HB 2252**. Although the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority agree with many components of this bill, they are working to implement a new, more data driven approach to funding technical education that focuses on the cost of providing such programs. They encouraged the committee to continue to support **HB 2003** as the basis for the ongoing development of a new funding approach. They believe **HB 2003**, proposed by the Authority and included in the Board's legislative package, would address the intentions of this bill. ([Attachment 6](#))

Representative Kasha Kelly stated that where the Board of Regents and the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority are heading is good; but it doesn't do anything for these three colleges right now.

The hearing on **HB 2252** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee is scheduled for March 4, 2009.