

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Adkins at 9:00 a.m. on January 6, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Jeff Peterson - excused

Committee staff present: Kansas Legislative Research Staff
Office of Revisor of Statutes Staff
Judy Bromish, Administrative Assistant (Chairman Kerr's Office)
Ronda Miller, Committee Secretary (Chairman Kerr's Office)
David Stallings, Administrative Assistant (Chairman Adkins Office)
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary (Chairman Adkins Office)

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Duane Goossen, Director of the Budget
Dale M. Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education
Kim Wilcox, Executive Director, State Board of Regents
Jerry Sloan, Budget and Fiscal Officer, Judicial Branch
Randy Hearrell, Executive Director, Judicial Council (written testimony)
David Lake, Administrator, Board of Emergency Medical Services
Pat Hurley, Economic Lifelines
Ellen Piekalkiewicz, Director of Policy and Planning, Association of Community Mental Health
Centers of Kansas
Amy Kelley, Associate Director, Keys for Networking, Inc.
Mark Tallman, School Finance Coalition
George Peterson, Kansas Taxpayer Network

Others attending: See attached list

Representative David Adkins, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, welcomed the Senators and Representatives present for the joint meeting of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Chairman Adkins mentioned that he will be chairing the morning portion of the joint meeting and that Senator Dave Kerr, Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, will be chairing the afternoon portion of the meeting. Chairman Adkins mentioned that there was a full agenda for the day and he asked Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst with the Kansas Legislative Research Department, to give a Staff Briefing on the status of the State General Fund

Overview of the Current Status of the State General Fund

Mr. Conroy briefed the Committee on the following:

State General Fund Overview ([Attachment 1](#))
State General Fund (SGF) Receipts - July through December, FY 2000 ([Attachment 2](#))
State General Profile, FY 1998 - FY 2004 ([Attachment 3](#))

Questions and discussion followed.

Governor's Recommended FY 2000 State General Fund Budget Adjustments

Chairman Adkins introduced Duane Goossen, Director of the Budget. Director Goossen distributed copies of the Governor's Recommendations for a Revised FY 2000 Budget ([Attachment 4](#)). He also noted that the final recommended total is still 4.6 percent higher than FY 1999. Director Goossen mentioned that the Governor is recommending of FY 2000 expenditures a slight increase in the FY 2001 Budget and still maintain a 7.5 percent ending balance as required by law. Director Goossen detailed the Governor's recommendations for a revised FY 2000 Budget. He also distributed a handout, Education Budget ([Attachment 5](#)). He mentioned that what the Governor is recommending allows for a \$37 per pupil

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increase this fiscal year over last year. He noted that education is the highest priority in the Governor's budget recommendations and that it is evidenced by the recommendations to provide both the \$37 base state aid per pupil increase now and another \$50 next year in a time when funds are limited and other budgets are being reduced. Director Goossen also noted that the Governor's revised FY 2000 budget needs to be looked at as a whole and realize that any shifting or any adding to a budget or enhancements requires a shift in another agency's budget being reduced.

Committee questions and discussion followed.

Chairman Adkins mentioned that there was a full agenda for the afternoon session of the meeting and that Chairman Kerr will chair the meeting. The Committee recessed at 12:00 noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:35 p.m. with Senator Dave Kerr, Chairman of Senate Ways and Means Committee, chairing the afternoon portion of the meeting.

Chairman Kerr mentioned that the Cabinet Secretaries of certain departments were available during the early part of the afternoon should there be questions of them. Secretary Janet Schalansky, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and Secretary Dean Carlson, Kansas Department of Transportation stood for questions from the Committee. Chairman Kerr thanked the Cabinet Secretaries for their time in being available for Committee questions and discussion. Dale Finger, Associate Director, Kansas Bureau of Investigation also stood for questions from the Committee. The Committee asked for more information regarding the positions at the KBI that would be affected by the Governor's revised FY 2000 budget. Chairman Kerr wanted the Budget Director to clarify what was recommended on this budget about the authorized positions and how much of it constitutes the proposed budget reduction of \$850,000. J. Kenneth Hales, Deputy Commissioner, Juvenile Justice Authority, also stood for questions from the Committee.

State Agency Comments on Governor's Recommended FY 2000 Budget Adjustments

Conferees appearing before the Joint Committee:

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education. Mr. Dennis distributed and explained a memorandum with a summary that breaks down the appeal concerning the Governor's FY 2000 proposed State General Fund budget reductions for the State Board of Education and the impact they will have on public education in the state. ([Attachment 6](#))

Kim Wilcox, Executive Director, State Board of Regents. Mr. Wilcox distributed and explained the Governor's Recommended FY 2000 State General Fund for the Regents System. ([Attachment 7](#))

Jerry Sloan, Budget and Fiscal Officer, Judicial Branch. (No written testimony was received.) Mr. Sloan described the effect on the Judicial Branch of the cuts proposed by the Governor. The Judicial Branch's budget is nearly all financed by the State General Fund and most of the expenditures are for compensation because the district court's operational expenses are paid by county funds. He noted that any reduction in their budget is going to impact their personnel and at this point in time they are on schedule to make the 1 percent reduction. The Judicial Branch has had to reduce some hiring, so they are short-staffed, but appears at this point they will be able to meet the 1 percent continuing with the process they have had since September.

Randy Hearrell, Executive Director, Judicial Council, submitted written testimony. ([Attachment 8](#))

David Lake, Administrator, Board of Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Lake distributed and explained the FY 2000 Budget Appeal for the Board of Emergency Medical Services. On behalf of the Board of Emergency Medical Services, Mr. Lake respectfully requested restoration of \$23,871 which includes appropriate benefits recommended for rescission from their FY 2000 budget. It was noted in the testimony that restoration of the money is necessary for them to meet their statutory and regulatory obligations and their licensing examination cycle resumes on January 8, 2000. ([Attachment 9](#))

Questions and discussion followed conferee testimony. Chairman Kerr mentioned that this concluded the agency presentations.

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Public Hearing on the Governor's Recommended FY 2000 Budget Adjustments

Conferees appearing before the Joint Committee:

Pat Hurley, Economic Lifelines. Mr. Hurley noted that a copy of a resolution adopted unanimously by the Board of Directors of Economic Lifelines was attached to his testimony. The resolution expresses opposition to reductions in funding for the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Program. ([Attachment 10](#))

Ellen Piekalkiewicz, Director of Policy and Planning, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc. ([Attachment 11](#)) Also distributed was a letter from the Menninger Foundation regarding children's mental health ([Attachment 12](#)). Representative Landwehr requested a list of the 29 Community Mental Health Centers and where they are located.

Amy Kelley, Associate Director, Keys for Networking, Inc. Ms. Kelley mentioned that she was present to apprise the Committee of the value of mental health services for Kansas children and their families, and the value of children's mental health dollars to the public school system. She distributed a letter to the House Appropriations Committee regarding the 2000 Legislative Session, Funding for Children with SED and their Families. ([Attachment 13](#))

Mark Tallman, School Finance Coalition. Mr. Tallman distributed and explained a letter to the Committees regarding School Finance Coalition Comments on Proposed Budget Adjustments. On behalf of the School Finance Coalition, Mr. Tallman urged sustaining the level of education funding approved during the 1999 Legislative session, particularly for base state aid and special education aid. ([Attachment 14](#))

George Peterson, Kansas Taxpayers Network. Mr. Peterson distributed and explained a letter regarding Support for Limiting State Spending Growth. ([Attachment 15](#)) Mr. Peterson mentioned that he was present on behalf of Kansas taxpayers to urge strong support and quick adoption of a reduction in spending growth. He noted that the Kansas Taxpayers Network would like to see the Legislature and the Governor limit spending growth to only a maximum of two percent next year. He also noted on behalf of KTN to act quickly to limit the growth in soaring state spending in the current fiscal year by \$100 million in the General Fund.

Questions and discussion followed conferee testimony. Chairman Kerr closed the public hearing.

Chairman Kerr announced that the Senate Ways and Means Committee will meet January 7, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 123-S. Chairman Adkins announced that the House Appropriations Committee will meet January 7, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 514-S.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for both Senate Ways and Means and House Appropriations on January 7, 2000.