MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:05 a.m. on February 21, 2000 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Greta Goodwin

Milly Cundy, Certified Legal Assistant, Wichita Sandra K. Landis, Certified Legal Assistant Specialist

Senator Lana Oleen

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairman Oleen called the committee's attention to the artwork hanging on the walls of the committee room. Tamara D. Faw Faw-Goodson, a graduate from Kansas State and a freelance illustrator, painter, graphic designer and art director from Manhattan has consented to display her art work at the capitol for the next month.

Chairman Oleen announced that this committee would not schedule a meeting on Thursday to accommodate legislators wishing to attend the funeral of Luci Reilly, who was the wife of former Senator Ed Reilly who chaired the Federal and State Affairs Committee for many years.

Chairman Oleen opened the hearing on:

SCR 1639 – Establishing Legal Assistants Day

Senator Greta Goodwin appeared as a proponent for <u>SCR 1639</u>. Senator Goodwin stated that she is a member of the Kansas Association of Legal Assistants and the National Association of Legal Assistants. (<u>Attachment 1</u>) The complexity of the practice of law has dictated the need for the advanced education and training of persons who can assist attorneys in the delivery of legal services. The Kansas Association of Legal Assistants feels it is important to recognize the services provided by honoring the profession with a day designated as Legal Assistants Day. Senator Goodwin urged the favorable consideration of **SB 1639**.

Chairman Oleen recognized Milly Cundy, CLA, Wichita, a proponent on <u>SCR 1639.</u> Ms. Cunday stated that Kansas legal assistants have become an integral part of the delivery of legal services to the public in virtually all areas of the law. (<u>Attachment 2</u>). Ms. Cunday noted that the Kansas Association of Kansas Legal Assistants (KALA) represent more than 130 members in the state. She stated that members of KALA have participated for a number of years on the Kansas Bar Association Legal Assistant Committee and assisted in establishing Guidelines for the Utilization of Legal Assistants in the state of Kansas.

Chairman Oleen recognized Sandra K. Landis, CLAS, as a proponent on <u>SCR 1639</u>. Ms. Landis explained the certification process that legal assistants undergo to become a Certified Legal Assistant. She stated that this a voluntary credentialing program called the Certified Legal Assistant Program. Ms. Landis ask the legislature to honor those who have worked so hard to establish the Legal Assistant profession by permanently declaring October 28 as Legal Assistants Day in Kansas.

Senator Goodwin introduced Blanche Bunce, who is the Kansas National liaison to the National Certified Legal Association. Mr. Bunce stated that she was proud to be part of the Kansas Association of Legal Assistants and ask the committee to support this resolution.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, Room 245-N Statehouse, at 11:05 a.m. on February 21, 2000.

After discussion by the committee Senator Goodwin stated that she would like to have the resolution changed to request 10 copies be provided to her. Senator Harrington moved to amend the resolution requesting 10 copies be provided to Senator Goodwin and that the resolution be passed favorably to the full senate. Senator Becker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Senator Harrington became presiding chair and opened hearing on:

SB 525 - Legislative session

Chairman Harrington recognized Senator Oleen, a proponent to <u>SB 525</u>. Senator Oleen stated that this bill would indicate that legislators would be in session, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Fridays could be devoted to constituent work, travel to the home districts, meetings with constituents and to attend to jobs of citizen legislators. Senator Oleen stated that the bill did provide for affirmative vote by 2/3 of the members elected of either house for a legislative committee of such house to meet on Fridays' or other days during a legislative session. Senator Oleen stated that one of the reasons for this bill is that quality people have left the legislature and others will not consider running because of a need to attend to personal careers that cannot be abandoned for three or four months. Another reason is the considerable driving time that some legislators have if they return to their districts to attend meetings and meet with constituents. Senator Oleen stated that many other states have adopted this style of session to accommodate legislators and constituents' needs. (Attachment 3). Senator Oleen stated that this would be a better way to represent and work for the constituents in a legislator's district.

After questions and comments on the bill from the committee members, Chairman Harrington closed the hearing on the bill.

Senator Oleen resumed chair and announced that a meeting of the subcommittee on <u>SUB HB 2013</u> is scheduled today after adjournment of the Senate.

Chairman Oleen called for action on the minutes for February 9, February 15, February 16 and February 16 at the rail. Senator Vratil moved to accept the minutes as noted. Senator Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be February 22, at 11:00 a.m.