

Approved: March 2, 2000

Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on February 21, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
 Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
 Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
 JoAnn Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

 Marlee Bertholf, Executive Director, Kansas Retail Council, KCCI
 Bob Williams, Executive Director, Kansas Pharmacists Association
 Larry Froelich, Executive Director, Kansas State Board of Pharmacy

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing on SB 598 - Ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technicians

Marlee Bertholf, Executive Director, Kansas Retail Council, KCCI, testified before the Committee in support of **SB 598** which would permit the Board of Pharmacy to set, through rules and regulations, the ratio of pharmacy technicians to pharmacists working in an establishment. The bill would also require the Board of Pharmacy to register pharmacy technicians and the responsible pharmacists to provide sufficient information to identify the technician who is registering. Ms. Bertholf noted that they did not include in the bill an amount to be paid by the technician for their registration, and would support an amendment to add language that allows a reasonable fee to be charged. She also noted she would supply information to the Committee relating to what states allow the Board of Pharmacy to set ratios. (Attachment 1) The Chair noted that the fiscal note of the bill showed the expense of an additional FTE position to administer the registration process if the Board of Pharmacy chose to hire an additional person.

Bob Williams, Executive Director, Kansas Pharmacists Association, expressed his support for the **SB 598**. He noted that the bill would not only allow the State Board of Pharmacy to know how many pharmacy technicians are currently employed in Kansas, but where they are employed as well. (Attachment 2)

The Chair called the Committee's attention to a report distributed to the Committee entitled, "To Err Is Human - Building a Safer Health System" by the Committee on Quality of Health Care in America, Institute of Medicine. (Attachment 3)

Larry Froelich, Executive Director, Kansas State Board of Pharmacy, addressed the Committee and expressed his support for the concept of **SB 598** but suggested additional language needed to be added to the bill that would address the registration schedule and fee to be charged. Additional office staff for registering pharmacy technicians and authority to discipline anyone not registered were also addressed in his written testimony. (Attachment 4)

The Chair requested the proponents of the bill work together and staff to draw a balloon of **SB 598** showing the proposed amendments before the bill is worked by the Committee.

There were no opponents to **SB 598**.

Action on SB 527 - Denial of licenses for persons in healing arts who have been convicted of a felony 2/3 majority of board determine otherwise.

Staff briefed the Committee on a balloon of the bill showing amendments proposed by the Board of Healing Arts. (Attachment 5) Chip Wheelan, Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine, also expressed his support for the amendments.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, Room 526-S, Statehouse, at 10:00 a.m. on February 21, 2000.

After Committee discussion on the proposed amendments which also included inserting "in writing" on page 3, line 16 of the bill, after the word "inform", relating to failure of the licensee informing patients in writing suffering from abnormality of the breast tissue, Senator Langworthy made a motion to adopt the amendments shown in the balloon of the bill as well as inserting "in writing" on page 3, line 16, seconded by Senator Becker. The motion carried.

Senator Salmans made a motion the Committee recommend **SB 527 as amended** favorably for passage, seconded by Senator Langworthy. The motion carried.

Action on SB 557 - Regulation and licensing of crematories

Staff briefed the Committee on a balloon of **SB 557** showing proposed amendments from the State Board of Mortuary Arts and the Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association. (Attachment 6)

Senator Becker made a motion to adopt the balloon of the bill showing the proposed amendments, and the Committee recommend **SB 557 as amended** favorably for passage, seconded by Senator Hardenburger. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2000.