

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garry Boston at 1:30 p.m. on February 6, 2002 in Room 210 Memorial Hall

All members were present except: Representative Nancy Kirk, Excused

Committee staff present: Renea Jefferies, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statute's Office  
June Evans, Secretary

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairperson Welshimer moved and Representative Morrison seconded bill introduction to license radiologic technologists. The motion carried.

Representative Showalter moved and Representative Storm seconded bill introduction concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, for the Department of Health and Environment relating to additional aid to public health departments for bio-terrorism infrastructure and authorizing certain transfers and fees, imposing certain restrictions and limitations and directing or authorizing certain receipts, disbursements, capital improvements and acts incidental to the forgoing. The motion carried.

Representative Storm moved and Representative Showalter seconded prompt payment of refunds to consumers. The motion carried.

Representative Storm moved and Representative Welshimer seconded to fill prescriptions for a 90 day period rather than a 30 day period to save on the environment. The motion carried.

The Chairperson opened the hearing on **HB 2733 - Presumptive death law, catastrophic events or disasters.**

Staff gave a briefing on **HB 2733.**

Representative Morrison asked if the missing person does reappear, what happens to the insurance that was paid – does it have to be paid back?

Staff said they would research that question.

Dr. Lorne A. Phillips, Director and State Registrar, Center for Health and Environmental Statistics, testified as a proponent to **HB 2733**, stating this is a mechanism to authorize state officials to file a presumptive death certificate in the event of a catastrophe in which a body for an individual cannot be found. Very few states have presumptive death law and need to change the statutes.

In light of the disasters of September 11 in New York and Washington, D.C. issues have arisen related to the registration of death certificates for individuals for which no body is found. The current statute K.S.A. 59-2704, requires that an absentee is presumed dead if they have not been heard from for a period of five years and if a diligent search has been conducted. This provision would pose a hardship on families in the event of a catastrophic event.

To address this, it is proposed that K.S.A. 59-2704 be amended to establish a procedure to declare a catastrophic event that will supercede the provisions in K.S.A. 59-2704 and shorten the time period for declaring an individual deceased and allow for the registration, certification and issuance of death certificates.

This legislation would allow, if the Governor and/or President were to declare an emergency either due to a catastrophic event or a war, that expedited procedures for the declaration of

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 210,  
Memorial Hall at 1:30 p.m. on February 6, 2002.

death and the creation of a death certificate would be allowed (Attachment 1).

The Chairperson closed the hearing on **HB 2733**.

The Chairperson opened the hearing on **HB 2734 - University of Kansas Hospital Authority Amendment**.

Staff gave a briefing on the bill.

William W. Sneed, Legislative Counsel for the University of Kansas Hospital Authority, testified as a proponent to **HB 2734**. This bill represents several technical changes to the statutes that govern the operation of UKHA. The legislature separated the hospital from the University of Kansas system and placed it under the independent University of Kansas Hospital Authority in 1998 (Attachment 2).

Rob Browning, Polsinelli, Shalton, Welte stated there were not a lot of changes in the KPERs. The testimony shows the proposed changes were approved by the board but it was actually the executive committee that approved, not the board.

Glenn Deck, KPERs stated he was neither a proponent or opponent to the bill. There were some concerns about this being made retroactive to move people out of KPERs. After discussion with representatives from the University of Kansas Hospital Authority, I don't feel there is a problem but if there is an amendment would like it to be clearer.

There were questions as to how many people were employees and the number under KPERs. The Board of Directors has the decision as to which plan employees are enrolled in.

The Chairperson asked the conferees to keep apprised and come back when the bill is worked.

The Chairperson closed the hearing on **HB 2734**.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. The next meeting will be February 7, 2002.