

Revised September 16, 2004 (by letter)

Approved: February 4, 2004

Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Morris at 10:40 a.m. on January 26, 2004, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

~~Senator David Kerr - excused~~

Senator Henry Helgeson - excused

*Senator Nick Jordan - excused*

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department

J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Julian Eford, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes

Judy Bromich, Administrative Analyst

Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, Legislative Division of Post Audit

David Lake, Administrator, Board of Emergency Medical Services

John Pinegar, Kansas Legislative Policy Group

David Owen, Homeless Come Home

Others attending:

See Attached List.

### **Bill Introduction**

Senator Downey moved, with a second by Senator Bunten, to introduce a bill concerning legislative post audit; relating to persons subject to audits (1rs1557). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

### **SB 306--Repealing K.S.A. 74-8840, certain separate audits of Kansas racing and gaming commission**

Staff briefed the committee on the bill.

Chairman Morris welcomed Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, Legislative Division of Post Audit, who presented testimony in support of **SB 306 (Attachment 1)**. Ms. Hinton explained that the bill would repeal what her staff and the Legislative Post Audit Committee consider to be an unnecessary requirement for an annual financial-compliance audit of the Racing and Gaming Commission. She listed several reasons why the audit requirement is not needed in her written testimony.

There being no further conferees to come before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 306**.

Senator Barone moved, with a second by Senator Downey, to recommend **SB 306** favorable for passage and be placed on the Consent Calendar. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

### **SB 312--Emergency medical services board, financing, tax on fire insurance business, extension**

Staff briefed the committee on the bill.

Chairman Morris welcomed David Lake, Administrator, State Board of Emergency Medical Services, who

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE at 10:30 a.m. on January 26, 2004, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

presented testimony in support of **SB 312** (Attachment 2). Mr. Lake emphasized three points in his testimony:

- the importance of professional Fire and Emergency Medical Services to the communities of Kansas
- the numbers show that these two vital community services in most places are working more in concert to provide emergency response and care to the citizens of Kansas
- the 1.25 percent levy on fire insurance premiums currently being collected generates enough money to operate the Fire Marshal's office, the Board of Emergency Medical Services, and the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute overseen by the University of Kansas Division of Continuing Education.

In closing, Mr. Lake asked recognition of the important role that emergency medical services and fire service play in the communities of Kansas and the delivery of emergency medical services has been, and will continue to grow in becoming a major function of fire service. Senator Barone requested information regarding how the EMS services are delivered county by county in the state. Mr. Lake responded that he will provide that information.

Chairman Morris welcomed John Pinegar, representing Kansas Legislative Policy Group (a coalition of over 30 western Kansas counties), presented testimony regarding establishing a permanent funding source for the Board of Emergency Services (Attachment 2). Mr. Pinegar mentioned that as a sidebar, in calendar year 2002, 55 percent of statewide fire calls were medical in nature.

The Chairman recognized David Owen, representing Homeless Come Home. (No written testimony.) Mr. Owen expressed concern about retrieving data regarding the number of homeless people that ambulances transport and often the ambulance companies are not paid.

Senator Downey moved, with a second by Senator Bunten, to recommend SB 312 favorable for passage. Committee discussion followed. Senator Downey withdrew her motion with the approval of Senator Bunten who had made the second to the motion.

Senator Salmans moved, with a second by Senator Barone, to amend SB 312 and remove the sunset. Motion carried on a voice vote. Senator Bunten requested to be recorded as voting "No" on the motion. Senator Bunten expressed concern about the fixed mill levy that provides funding for the State Fire Marshal's Office and the State Board of Emergency Medical Services and that it was raising enough money so that there were dollars left over for the EMS Board to be swept into the State General Fund. His question is concern whether or not the right figure has been determined on the mill levy.

Senator Salmans moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to recommend SB 312 favorable for passage as amended. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2004.