

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on February 15, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Kuether- excused
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor
Haley DaVee, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Tim Owens

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearing on **HB 2775 - Three tuition levels at state educational institutions.** Representative Owens was welcomed to the committee to testify as a proponent to **HB 2775.** (Attachment 1) He believes the bill will encourage work force development and creation, which will increase the incentive for businesses to locate in Kansas. Representative Owens also argued that it would address the problem of "brain drain," when students are educated in Kansas, but then they move out-of-state to secure employment.

Chairman Sloan drew the committee's attention to written testimony submitted by the Kansas Board of Regents in opposition to **HB 2775.** (Attachment 2) The floor was opened for questions and questions were asked by Representatives Johnson, Kelsey, Sloan, and Krehbiel.

Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HB 2775** and turned the committee's attention to **SB 139 - Authorizing state board of regents to establish the Kansas academy of mathematics and science (KAMS).**

Representative Otto provided the committee information regarding an issue that he had raised about gifted exceptional children and entitlement to participation in KAMS. (Attachment 3)

Representative Carlin questioned whether the ACT scores used to qualify students for KAMS was set high enough. Representative Johnson provided the committee with information regarding average ACT scores for American students. (Attachment 4) Representatives Kelsey, Carlin, and Sharp provided comments on the matter.

Representative Sharp moved to amend SB 139 to prevent the required admittance of gifted students to KAMS and to prevent the inclusion of KAMS admittance as a part of a student's IEP. Representative Craft seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Representative Johnson moved to amend SB 139 to allow ACT entrance requirements to be set by the Board of Regents.

The motion failed.

Representative Sharp moved to pass SB 139 favorably as amended. Representative Hill seconded the motion.

Representatives Carlin and Otto voiced concern with the bill. Representatives Sharp, Horst, and Kelsey shared opinions on the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 15, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan asked Representative Kelsey to carry the bill and turned the committee's attention to **HB 2745 - Higher education statewide mill levy.**

Chairman Sloan provided the committee with information about where Kansas ranks nationally in higher education funding. (Attachment 5) There were two balloons submitted for **HB 2745**, one by Representative Otto and one by Chairman Sloan. Representative Otto's amendment would change the mill levy to an income tax surtax (Attachment 6). Chairman Sloan's amendment retains the property tax component but creates a revolving loan and payment process for institutional infrastructure maintenance. (Attachment 7) An explanation of Chairman Sloan's amendment was provided to the committee. (Attachment 8)

Representatives Pottorf, Sharp, Horst, Menghini, Huff, Craft, Carlin, Storm, Hill, and Otto offered comments and questions on the proposed **HB 2745** and the proposed amendments.

Representative Otto moved that his balloon be adopted. Representative Horst seconded the motion

The motion carried.

Representative Otto moved that **HB 2745** be passed favorably as amended. Representative Hill seconded the motion.

The motioned carried 7 to 6.

The committee's attention was turned to **HB 2694 - Residency determinations at regents universities.**

A substitute was provided for **HB 2694** on the request of Representative Vaughn Flora. (Attachment 9)

Representative Kelsey moved to table **HB 2694**. Representative Horst seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2006 at 3:30 in Rm. 231-N.