

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:40 p.m. on February 22, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Lynn Jenkins, State Treasurer

POSSIBLE ACTION ON PREVIOUSLY HEARD BILLS:

SB 330–Learning Quest (family postsecondary savings accounts); removing penalty for early withdrawal

State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins called attention to a memorandum prepared by the Director of Learning Quest in response to questions raised by Committee members at a previous meeting regarding withdrawals from Learning Quest accounts. She noted that the memorandum summarized withdrawals based on dollars and based on the number of withdrawals. She pointed out that 1.6 percent of the dollars contributed by Kansans have been pulled out within the first twelve months, and the number of withdrawals represented .28 percent of the contributions made by Kansans. She called attention to a balloon amendment attached to the memorandum. She noted that the proposed amendment provided that, for the next three years, the State Treasurer must submit a report to the Senate Education Committee and the House Higher Education Committee outlining the contributions and withdrawals from the postsecondary education savings program for the preceding calendar year. (Attachment 1) She then responded to further questions from the Committee regarding concerns about early withdrawals.

Senator Allen moved to adopt the proposed balloon amendment to SB 330, seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion carried.

Senator Allen moved to recommend SB 330 favorably for passage as amended, seconded by Senator Goodwin. The motion carried.

SB 566–Enacting the Teacher Education Grant Program Act

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office, explained that, when she drafted the bill, she used the current Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship law. She explained that, on page 1, line 32, of **SB 566** the word “scholarship” should be “grant,” and on page 5, lines 5 and 6, the words “executive officer” should read “State Board.” In response to questions from the Committee, she explained how the provisions in the bill were different from current scholarship programs, and she listed the current scholarships for teachers.

Senator Schodorf noted that there was no appropriation for the bill; therefore, if the Committee recommended the bill favorably, it would be subject to appropriations. She commented, “The strength that I have seen in this bill is that it provides a whole new pool for special education teachers who have had experience, who know what the field is like, and who might be able to go ahead and get their degree.”

Senator Apple commented that, although he thought the bill was worthwhile, he had concerns about the administration of the repayment plan. He suggested that action on the bill be delayed until the repayment provision was fully addressed. Senator Steineger commented that, if the bill needed some clean-up, it could be done on the Senate floor.

Senator Steineger moved to recommend SB 566 favorably for passage, seconded by Senator Pine.

Senator Vratil commented that he supported the bill, but he opposed working the bill on the Senate floor. In

CONTINUATION SHEET

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his opinion, if the bill needed work, it should be done in Committee. Other members agreed.

On a call for a vote on Senator Steineger's motion, the motion failed on a show of hands.

Senator Vratil moved that the Chairman appoint a subcommittee to review and work SB 566 and that the subcommittee bring back their recommendations to the full committee, seconded by Senator Goodwin. The motion carried.

Senator Schodorf appointed Senators Apple, Steineger, and Pine as **SB 566** subcommittee members.

SB 508—Human sexuality education programs; Abstinence Plus Education Act

Ms. Kiernan noted that **SB 508** needed a technical amendment on page 1, line 29, to change the word "are" to "be."

Senator Schodorf commented that the bill was a continuation of the current program per rules and regulations which had been in effect since 1988 or 1989.

Senator Vratil moved to amend SB 508 on page 1, line 29, by striking the word "are" and inserting the word "be" and to recommend the bill favorably for passage as amended, seconded by Senator Lee. The motion carried.

Senator Schodorf called attention to copies of the minutes of the February 6, 7, 8, and 9 meetings.

Senator Steineger moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 7, 8, and 9 meetings, seconded by Senator Pine. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2006.