

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 P.M. on February 13, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bob Bethell- excused
Representative Kenny Wilk- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research
Betty Caruthers, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Crow for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security held on February 12, 2007 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers began working **HB 2209 - Scholarships for military service in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

Representative Goico presented a balloon for the bill. (Attachment 1) Representative Goico requested that the Revisor, Art Griggs summarize the changes in the bill.

Representative Goico moved to accept the amendment to **HB 2209** as stated in the balloon, seconded by Representative Goyle.

Motion carried.

Representative Goico motioned to move **HB 2209** as amended favorably for passage, seconded by Representative Goyle.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers began working **HB 2140 - English official language of the State of Kansas.**

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Ruff to explain amendments to **HB 2140** as worked on by Representative Ruff and Representative Goico. They establish English as the “official” language of Kansas as well as the “common” language. She stated that this does not infringe upon the Native American population and their means of communication. Representative Ruff stated that they have taken out the language on “standing” which seems to be the difficult section with regards to other states and legal issues. She believes the amendments show flexibility, with the bottom line being to have English as the official language of Kansas.

Representative Ruff moved, seconded by Representative Goico to accept the amendment to **HB 2140** as stated in the balloon. (Attachment 2)

Representative Goico stated that they will be providing adult education to people wanting to learn English which is referred to in section 6. He stated how for him, learning English has made all the difference in his life.

Representative Goyle referred to his parents and how he only speaks “American.” His concern is how we can have Kansans learn English as quickly as possible.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at 1:30 P.M. on February 13, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Representative Johnson stated that he doesn't understand what the bill does or the need for it. He questioned the Kansas seal and the non English language on it. Representative Ruff responded that this bill does not effect that.

Representative Light had concerns regarding section 6 wondering if it accomplishes anything more than what has been happening for the past 20 years as far as offering opportunities to learn English.

Representative Goico stated that if adult education programs need additional funding thru appropriations this bill may assist them.

Representative Phelps shared of the emphasis in the House Education Committee on English as a second language and programs throughout the state to assist people in learning English. With this in mind he questioned the need for the bill.

Representative Myers stated that he sees the need to be able to improve and increase the workforce in the State of Kansas. He shared that we are in need of a skilled workforce that can communicate in a common language. He considers this bill to be a pro-immigration bill, so that those not proficient in English can become so. He does not believe that this bill is taking away from anyone's first language but rather encouraging others to learn the common language of the State of Kansas.

Motion carried.

Moved by Representative Ruff, seconded by Representative Goyle to move bill favorably for passage as amended.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers began working **HB 2425 - Tuition and fees for members of Kansas army or national guard.**

Representative Goico presented background on the bill and moved to amend **HB 2425** as described in the balloon. (Attachment 3) Seconded by Representative Colloton.

Motion carried.

Moved by Representative Goico to move **HB 2425** as amended favorable for passage, seconded by Representative Colloton.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers encouraged Committee members to review past handout from Carmen Aldritt regarding REAL ID in preparation for meeting tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15.

Next meeting February 14, 2007.