

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on February 16, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley- excused

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dennis McKinney, State Treasurer

April Holman, Kansas Action for Children

Jackie Freed, Kansas Partners in Asset Development

Don Jordan, Secretary, Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services (written only)

Senator Richard Kelsey

Mark Desetti, KNEA

Others attending:

See attached list.

SB 84 - School districts; personal financial literacy; statewide assessments

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, presented the revised bill which included recommendations made by Senator Abrams. These recommendations included striking all of lines 19 through 38 which included the listing of components to be covered in the program. Also included was striking “objectives” in section © and inserting “state curriculum”. School districts would also be encouraged to include family and consumer science, accounting or other appropriate courses when selecting textbooks. The section relating to including questions relating to personal financial literacy in the statewide assessments would remain.

Committee discussion included concern regarding adding additional requirements and expense to the school districts when selecting textbooks in this economic climate. Senator Owens expressed concern with adding testing on financial literacy to the state assessment testing. Senator Abrams stated that this was already being taught on the state assessment tests but this was an attempt to get the law up to what is already occurring; an attempt to create state curriculum standards as are set out for math, science, etc. Discussion was also held regarding the time frame for implementation.

Senator Steineger moved to add the balloon amendments, along with the suggestion that implementation be delayed a year or two, to **SB 84**. The motion was seconded by Senator Abrams. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Abrams moved to recommend **SB 84** favorable for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Senator Steineger. Motion failed with Senators Abrams, Schodorf and Steineger voting yes; Senators Marshall, Huelskamp, Umbarger, and Owens voting no; Senator Teichman abstaining.

Hearing on SB 225 - Low-income family postsecondary savings accounts incentive program

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, presented a summary of **SB 225**. The bill amends law concerning the low-income family postsecondary savings accounts incentive program. A dollar-for-dollar match for moneys put in by qualifying low-income taxpayers, not to exceed \$600 per year, is provided. To qualify, income cannot exceed more than 200% of the federal poverty level for the tax year prior to the year in which the application is submitted. Number of approved qualifications may not exceed 300 per congressional district. If all applications are not filled, there is a provision for additional applicants not to exceed a program total of 1,200 per year. The program is administered by the State Treasurer’s office.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 16, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

Dennis McKinney, State Treasurer ([Attachment 1](#)), provided testimony in favor of continuing the Kansas Investments Developing Scholars Matching Grant Program created in 2006 as a three-year pilot program, on a permanent basis. April Holman, Kansas Action for Children ([Attachment 2](#)), Jackie Freed, Kansas Partners in Asset Development ([Attachment 3](#)), Don Jordan, Secretary, Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services ([Attachment 4](#)) (written only), and Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, ([Attachment 5](#)) (written only) all provided support for continuation of the program.

There were no other conferees to appear before the Committee.

The hearing on **SB 225** was closed.

Hearing on SB 209 - Teachers; nontraditional licensure

Senator Richard Kelsey, ([Attachment 6](#)), provided testimony regarding **SB 209**. This legislation would provide for the “Nontraditional teacher licensure program”. His testimony included the story of his daughter who now lives in Arkansas. Although she already had a college degree she did not hold a teaching certificate. Under a program available in that state she was able to obtain one without attending school full time for a year or more. Discussion included that of Senator Steineger and others on the committee who pointed out that similar programs were already available in the state; specifically mentioned were the “You Can Teach” program through the University of Kansas, programs through Ft. Hays, Pittsburg State, Wichita State as well as on-line programs through Emporia State University.

Mark Desetti, KNEA ([Attachment 7](#)), provided testimony in opposition to the proposed legislation. His argument was the legislation is completely unnecessary as it allows the state board of education to do what they already have authority to do, and are doing. He also took exception to lines 23-27 as it appeared to give grants to institutions rather than to the candidates who he felt should be awarded available grants.

Chair Schodorf stated a review of alternative teacher certification programs would be held after “turn around”.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.