

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Morrison at 1:32 p.m. on February 3, 2003, in Room 243-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Landwehr, Neighbor, and Williams, all of whom were excused.

Committee staff present:

Bill Wolff, Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
Michael Byington, President, Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Mark Coates, Chair, Legislative Committee, Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Others attending: See Guest List.

The Chair announced Wednesday, February 5, as the deadline for introducing committee legislation.

By proper motion and second the minutes for the January 28 and January 29 meetings were approved.

Representative Bethell requested the Committee sponsor a bill establishing an independent panel to resolve survey-finding disputes for administrators of Kansas nursing home facilities. (Attachment 1) A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor the bill.

Representative Bethell requested a second bill to amend statutes related to the Board of Adult Care Home Administrators, adding two fees and authorizing the Board to establish standards of character, training and experience for those applying for a nursing home license. (Attachment 2) A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor the bill.

Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, requested two bills. (Attachment 3) The first would allow reciprocity and an expedited licensing for those moving into Kansas with valid licenses from their home state. A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor the bill. The second bill would change the current law regarding confidentiality and privileged communications; presently BSRB licensees are included under the attorney-client statutes; the proposed legislation would create a uniform confidential and privileged communication act for all BSRB licensees. Ms. Gilmore said there would be no fiscal impact to the state if the proposed law were passed. Ms. Gilmore replied to a question that BSRB comes under the Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act (HIPPA). A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE at on February 3, 2003, in Room 243-N of the Capitol.

Michael Byington, President, Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, introduced Mark Coates, Chair of the Legislative Committee for KABVI, who requested legislation to create a Kansas Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. (Attachment 4) He said the bill would shift services and funds from Social and Rehabilitative Services (SRS) to an appointed commission. Answering a question, Mr. Byington said some services and funding imbedded in SRS might be difficult to separate. He explained that by creating a free-standing agency outside SRS, federal regulations required an advisory board to be formed. He said a committee under SRS was on record as supporting the concept of an independent agency for the blind. A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2003.