

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 2004, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Judy Showalter- excused
Representative Peggy Long-Mast- excused
Representative R. J. Wilson- excused
Representative Tom Holland- excused
Representative Joe McLeland - excused

Committee staff present:

Dr. William Wolff, Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Gary Deeter, Secretary
Legislative Computer Services Staff: Director David Larson, Terri Clark, Sandy Sadowski, LuAnn Lawhon, and Kelly Spoonemore

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Others attending:

See Attached List

The Chairman provided a brief demonstration of how a bill can be accessed on the Committee web page, noting that after the bill is amended either by the Committee or on the House floor, the original text of the bill disappears; he stated his vision that the original and each revision of the bill should be retained with a digital certification so that researchers can later trace the developing concepts of the legislation.

The Chairman then relinquished the chair to Representative Cindy Neighbor, who led a discussion evaluating the pilot Electronic Committee Project. Representative Neighbor first queried the Committee regarding what has worked well with the paperless project. Members commented:

- The daily agenda, complete with links to the bills and to the testimony, makes it easy to follow the progress of the meeting.
- Use of the Journal for marking up a bill or creating a balloon amendment gives legislators a new versatility.
- Regular use of the Journal allows the computer to learn a person's handwriting and become more proficient in translating it into text.
- Use of the Instant Messenger (IM) allows a person to communicate with another member without being disruptive.
- Being able to view testimony before the meeting enables a member to form better judgments on the issues addressed by a bill.
- A Luddite member said the process went much better than he expected.

Members discussed aspects of the paperless process that could be improved or needed to be changed. One

CONTINUATION SHEET

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member commented that the Committee has a wide spectrum of skill levels, making it ideal for a pilot project. One member thought a manual would help the Committee members to reorient themselves to the process next year. Another said it took too much time moving so many documents to Journal, or trying to download testimony to Journal and listen to testimony at the same time. Another had problems highlighting data and copying it to Journal.

Members extensively discussed using the tablet for personal or campaign purposes, noting the difficulties of trying to keep Committee material on the tablet and other material on a separate laptop. Members commented that present Legislative Coordinating Council policy prohibits using state computers for campaign work. Another member suggested that Lobbyist-in-a-Box, provided by the Information Network of Kansas, could be more widely utilized. Computer Services staff said that the next version of the tablet will have CD Read-Write capabilities, making data transfer easier.

Members expressed concern about having access to the system during the interim, a discussion which led to the Chairman expressing his vision that each legislator be provided with a minimum of DSL service and a maximum of a T-1 line. Computer staff commented that such service would need to include a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to protect the security of the data.

In discussing the computer tools available through the tablet PC, members commented on the value of Sensiva, sticky notes, and the use of the stylus-mouse.

Lobbyist Larrie Ann Lower stated that the only problem lobbyists have expressed is that submitting testimony 24 hours before the hearing sometimes creates scheduling problems, especially if the company being represented is a national company. She said having the testimony projected onto the wall has proved to be helpful in seeing implications of a person's testimony. She praised the process of having testimony available online. The Chairman noted that not having to distribute paper saves considerable Committee time.

The staff briefing on [SB 418](#) and [SB 511](#) was postponed for lack of time. Staff Bill Wolff commented that the Supplemental Notes for each bill provides the essence of the briefing.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2004.