

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Morrison at 1:33 p.m. on March 10, 2003, in Room 143-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Landwehr and Bethell, both of whom were excused.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

Following a motion and second, the minutes for March 6 were unanimously approved.

The Chair reviewed the bill assignments and the dates for hearings. (Attachment 1)

Staff Bill Wolff provided a briefing on **SB 199**, saying the bill made three changes in existing law:

- Under present law certain persons are exempt from licensing by the Board of Examiners in Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids if they are fitting or dispensing hearing aids as a part of an academic program, a charitable institution, or a nonprofit organization supported by charitable contributions that does not sell hearing aids or accessories. The bill adds a new contingency to the exemption; besides not selling hearing aids, the person must also not charge a fee for his/her services.
- The amendment creates a new exception: a licensed audiologist employed by a publicly funded school district, a special education cooperative, or an education service center serving preschool through high school age students and not selling hearing aids or charging a fee is exempt.
- New language added by the bill states that if a complaint is lodged against a person exempted from Board licensure and that person is licensed by another state agency, the licensing agency shall consult with the Board regarding the complaint.

Answering questions, Dr. Wolff said even if a person were not an employee of a school district, if he/she provides the service without a fee, he/she is exempt. Representative Patterson raised the question of a for-profit company sending a volunteer to work under the auspices of a non-profit organization in order to gain a presence for later possible sales; Dr. Wolff suggested asking conferees tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2003.