

Approved: May 7, 2008
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:30 A.M. on January 30, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Jay Emler - excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kristen Clarke Kellems, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association
Rochelle Chronister, Chairwoman, 2010 Commission
Dale Dennis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Education
Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation

Others attending:
See attached list.

Bill Introduction

Chairman Umbarger acknowledged Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association, who requested and explained a bill that would create a dentistry bridging loan program (Attachment 1). Senator Taddiken moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to introduce a conceptual bill regarding creating a dentistry bridging loan program. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chairman welcomed Rochelle Chronister, Chairwoman, 2010 Commission, who provided a briefing on the Commission's activities and recommendations (Attachment 2). Chairwoman Chronister reported that the Commission has been in almost every corner of the state and Kansas kids are doing well. She noted that teachers in the coming years are going to be in short supply. Leadership is important for principals in the Leadership Academy and professional development for teachers with mentoring new teachers is also very important.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Dale Dennis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Education, who presented an overview of the Kansas Department of Education (Attachment 3). Mr. Dennis addressed the Kindergarten through 12th Grade challenges. He also explained data regarding findings based upon audit findings from the Legislative Division of Post Audit and emphasized data concerning the problem of teacher shortages. There are serious teacher shortages in the areas of Math and Science in Kansas. Kansas students rank in the top 10% for reading and mathematics on the ACT, and in Kansas, 77% of graduating seniors go on to post-secondary education. Mr. Dennis also detailed the Governor's recommendation for all-day kindergarten and Pre-K Pilot.

The Chairman welcomed Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation, who gave an overview of the Kansas Department of Transportation (Attachment 4). Secretary Miller mentioned that the transportation system in Kansas is in good shape. She provided an update of the Comprehensive Transportation System and noted that it is on-target depending on some federal funding issues. Secretary Miller also indicated that there are some construction-related items will continue to the year 2011. She also noted that revenues are not keeping pace with inflation. Secretary Miller explained that Kansas ranks third in the nation with the most cost-effective state-owned road and highway system, keeping in mind that rural

CONTINUATION SHEET

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states do not have some of the challenges that the urban-area states do.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for January 31, 2008.