

Approved: May 9, 2012

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carolyn McGinn at 11:15 AM on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 in 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Senator Emler, who was excused.

Committee staff present:

Jan Lunn, Committee Assistant  
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senator McGinn's Office  
Eli Johns, Intern, Senator McGinn's Office  
J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department  
Michael Steiner, Senior Analyst, Legislative Research Department  
Bobbi Mariani, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
David Wiese, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mr. Earl McVicker  
Secretary Ray Roberts, Department of Corrections

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Confirmation hearing for Earl McVicker to the Kansas Bioscience Authority for a term expiring March 15, 2015

Mr. Earl McVicker, Hutchinson, Kansas, and nominated by the Kansas Speaker of the House to serve on the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA) Board of Directors, discussed with committee members his past personal and professional experience in banking, service on many community and national boards, and his commitment to the success of the KBA and its mission. (Attachment 1)

Mr. McVicker indicated he was appointed in March 2011, he delayed confirmation at the beginning of the 2012 Session to assess the impact of the KBA Audit, controversy concerning the agency's funding, and to ensure there was an avenue to produce success for KBA and the state. In response to additional questions, Mr. McVicker assured committee members of his commitment to the KBA; he described his relationship with the board, the staff, and other board conferees. In addition, he indicated that, from his perspective, the KBA board can now begin to collectively address outstanding issues; however, without funding, the success of the KBA would be lessened.

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Senator Teichman moved to advance the recommendation of Mr. Earl McVicker to the Kansas Bioscience Authority Board to the full Senate; the motion was seconded by Senator Schodorf, which carried on a voice vote.

Bill introductions:

Senator Vratil moved introductions 12rs2555, concerning map Sunflower 13, a proposed congressional district map; Senator Teichman seconded the motion, which carried on a voice vote.

Senator Vratil moved introduction 12rs2556, concerning Ad Astra Revised, a state board of education map; Senator Teichman seconded the motion, which carried on a voice vote.

Hearing on **SB 434--Granting the Secretary of Corrections the authority to purchase the Saint Francis Boy's home in Ellsworth, Kansas**

Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, briefed committee members on **SB 434**. Ms. Wolters pointed out that the bill provides for one disinterested appraiser to determine the market value of the property to be acquired and that the attorney general shall approve the abstract of title or title insurance policies and shall approve the form of the deed to such property. (Attachment 2)

Secretary Ray Roberts, Department of Corrections (DOC), testified in support of **SB 434**, which would authorize the purchase of the Saint Francis Boy's Home in Ellsworth, Kansas, for a 95-bed minimum security correctional facility. He indicated repair and minor renovation costs would be less than \$100,000; repair and renovation to the facility would not cause any delay in hiring staff or moving inmates as early as September 2012. The staffing complement would be approximately 15 FTEs with an annual operating cost projected at \$1,037,601. The total costs of \$1.5 million would be offset by reduction in county jail expenditures. (Attachment 3)

Discussion was heard concerning the contract jail beds funding, the negotiated agreement to purchase the St. Francis Boys' Home facility, recent events regarding inmate escapes from county jails, DOC actions related to the escapes and ensuring public safety, inmate classifications, and decisions on where to house medium and minimum security offenders.

Senator McGinn closed the hearing on **SB 434**.

Senator Umbarger moved SB 434 favorable for passage; Senator Francisco seconded the motion, which carried on a voice vote.

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A committee member requested Secretary Roberts provide information concerning salaries and morale at correctional facilities.

Secretary Roberts provided salary information for state correctional officers compared to correctional officers employed at county jails; he indicated that, in his opinion, morale is fair. Secretary Roberts reported that discussion will begin in the near future concerning a possible request for additional salary dollars during the next budget year.

Chairperson McGinn announced day-to-day decisions will be made concerning possible final action on a budget bill, but at the current time the Governor's Budget Amendments have not been received.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00noon.