

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman Edmonds at 9:02 a.m. March 7 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Flora, excused

Committee staff present: Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor
Winnie Crapson, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Merrick
Gary Brockus
Nancy Hanahan
Laurie McCammon
Nills Hansen
Mike Wizenreid
Dimitri Siscos
David Byrd
William J. Flohrs
Richard N. Biehn
Robin Krieger
Nikki Copp
Marsha Dixon Monica
Nancy Lear
Doug Glenn

Others attending: See attached list.

By unanimous consent bill will be introduced to increase tax rates on cigarettes. [HB 2560 - Cigarette and tobacco products tax rate increase]

Hearing was opened on:

HB 2408 - Blue Valley recreation system

Representative Merrick presented testimony in support of **HB 2408 (Attachment #1)**. He responded to questions from members of the Committee.

Gary Brockus, a former chairperson of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, testified in support of the bill (**Attachment #2**) and responded to questions from members of the committee.

Nancy Hanahan testified in support of the bill (**Attachment #3**). She referred to Attorney General Opinion No. 2001-1 requested by legal counsel for Unified School District No. 229 regarding authority for acquisition of real property by the Blue Valley Recreation System. She responded to questions from Committee members.

Laurie McCammon, a resident of the Blue Valley School District, testified in support of **HB 2408 (Attachment #4)**. She emphasized that the bill was intended to address the issue of oversight, not dissolution. She answered questions of members of the Committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

HB 2408 (Attachment #5). Mr. Wizenried believes it is essential that the Blue Valley Recreation Commission operate under the same accountability provisions as all other recreation commissions in Kansas. He responded to questions from Committee members.

Dmitri Siscos presented a Petition of Support signed by 819 citizens and patrons of the Blue Valley School District Community--USD 229 (Attachment #6).

David Byrd, director of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, presented testimony in opposition to **HB 2498** (Attachment #7) including letters in opposition from Janet Fawkes, Philip R. Glasser, John Graverson, Greg L. Musil, Linda J. Nohe, Robert G. Triano, Tom Whitehead and Susan Kay Zimmerman. Mr. Byrd responded to questions from members of the Committee.

William J. Flohrs, a member of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, testified and presented reasons to oppose the bill (Attachment #8).

Richard N. Bien, Chairman of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment #9) and answered questions from the Committee.

Robin Krieger, a real estate agent, testified in opposition to **HB 2408** (Attachment #10) and responded to questions.

Nikki Copp presented oral testimony in opposition to the bill on behalf of the Blue Valley Board of Education (Attachment #11) and responded to questions from the Committee.

Marsha Dixon Monica, a member of the Blue Valley School Board and liaison for the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, presented testimony as a parent and resident of the community in opposition to **HB 2408** (Attachment #12). She presented the position of the School Board that "In order to clarify the relationship between the Blue Valley Recreation Commission and the school district, Blue Valley USD #229 supports an independent status as an elected commission or the BVRC." She responded to Committee questions.

Nancy Lear, special tax counsel to the Blue Valley Recreation Commission, presented testimony concerning lease agreements (Attachment #13). She answered questions of Committee members.

Doug Glenn testified concerning audits of the Blue Valley Recreation Commission performed by his firm (Attachment #14).

Written testimony in opposition to the bill was presented by Nancy Brown (Attachment #15), Bea Bacon (Attachment #16), Robert D. Regnier (Attachment #17), David R. Erickson (Attachment #18), and K. O. Strohbahn (Attachment #19).

Hearing on **HB 2408** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is March 8.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.