

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 11:00 a.m. on February 3, 2000 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Feleciano, who was excused

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, KLRD
Michael Corrigan, Asst. Revisor of Statutes
Rae Anne Davis, KS Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, KS Legislative Research Department
Judy Bromich, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman
Ronda Miller, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Kerr reviewed the **Department of Education** subcommittee report for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). He made additional comments about the following items:

- 1. The deleted salary monies will be in the pay plan bill.
- 2.a. The subcommittee has recommended an increase of \$37 instead of \$50 in BSAPP.
- 2.b. Any unanticipated savings in BSAPP would go to inservice education up to a limit of \$2 million.
- 7.c. Though the grants were zeroed out, some money was added to the learning readiness programs which are similar to structured mentoring.

In answer to a question regarding the likelihood of qualifying for E-rate discounts for technology infrastructure (Attachment 1-3, item 5), Chairman Kerr stated that the Chief Information Officer indicated that the Department is quite likely to qualify, but will know for sure on May 7. The Chief Information Officer indicated that nearly 100% of the technology infrastructure as described in item 5 would be achieved if the Department qualified for the E-rate discounts and received \$4.5 million as recommended by the Governor. The Chairman added that other committees will be evaluating this issue and if something negative develops, Senate Ways and Means may want reconsider this recommendation. He mentioned that one cost not addressed is the cost associated with getting the technology from the districts to the schools.

In answer to a question, a representative from the Department of Education stated that Medicaid is okay for one more year for bundled rates. The estimate for next year's federal aid to special education is 11.7% of "excess cost" including Medicaid.

Senator Jordan moved, Senator Lawrence seconded, that item 7 of the subcommittee report be amended with language that would clarify that general state aid, supplemental general state aid, and special education are a high priority and the Committee will continue to look for unanticipated savings to fund these items. It was the consensus of the Committee that interest in funding these items is a very high priority. The motion to amend the subcommittee report carried on a voice vote.

Senator Petty reviewed the minority report (Attachment 1-6). She stated that she had offered two amendments during subcommittee deliberations that would have added \$22.3 million to fund the \$50 BSAPP and continue funding Special Education at 85% of excess costs and had supplied a list of possible revenue options to the subcommittee (Attachment 2). There was lengthy Committee discussion regarding those options and the steady growth in both the number of special education students and teachers.

The Chairman noted that he is keeping a list of any savings that are discovered as well as items for

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consideration during Omnibus. He told Committee members that the subcommittee has listed \$50,000 in FY 2000 for defense of the School Finance lawsuit as a high priority for Omnibus consideration.

It was moved by Senator Petty and seconded by Senator Gilstrap that the subcommittee report be amended by recommending that \$7,761,000 SGF be added to fund general and supplemental general state aid. The motion failed on a voice vote.

Senator Petty moved, Senator Downey seconded, that the subcommittee report be amended by including \$14.6 million SGF to fund special education at 85% of excess costs. The motion failed on a voice vote.

A motion was offered by Senator Lawrence and seconded by Senator Jordan to adopt the education subcommittee report as amended. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting will be February 7, 2000.