

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Kelley called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. on March 23, 2011, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Gordon– excused

Committee staff present:

Jim Wilson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Alan Conroy, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
J.G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Shirley Morrow, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Cindy O'Neal, Administrative Assistant, Appropriations Committee  
Kathy Holscher, Committee Assistant, Appropriations Committee

Conferee:

Jane Carter, Executive Director, Kansas Organization of State Employees - Opponent

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Kansas Organization of State Employees – Testimony

**HB 2393: an act concerning state employees; relating to abolishing longevity bonus**

Jane Carter, Executive Director, Kansas Organization of State Employees, provided testimony in opposition of **HB 2393** (Attachment 1). She stated that state employees wages are below the national average and benefits are the worst in the nation. Employees may face increased KPERS contributions, health insurance premium surcharge, proposed pay cuts and ongoing there is a hiring freeze. The longevity bonus pay rewards employees, she noted.

Jane Carter responded to questions from committee members. She stated the state-wide turnover rate is 13%. Updated market adjustments, data reflecting turnover as a result of promotional opportunities within the state and classified employees who have separated from state service will be provided, as requested by a members. The state benefit package as compared to the private sector benefits were reviewed. The Workforce website provides indepth data reports, she added. It was noted that 11,962 state employees received a longevity bonus in FY 2010, which was approved in FY 1989 for employees with 10 years of service and does not have an impact on performance evaluations. Employees hired after June 15, 2008 are not eligible, she added. It was noted that salary data for private businesses was not available to the public until changes were made to the Open Records Act. She noted that unclassified positions have increased by 16% and classified positions experienced a 13% decrease. She stated that closing state offices early on Fridays would not be fair to the citizens of Kansas and would place them at risk, as they expect, demand and deserve quality services.

Representative Gatewood made a motion to introduce proposed legislation regarding the Treece Trust. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

**HB 2262: Hiram Price Dillon House, conveyance to not-for-profit corporation for promotion of the arts**

Representative Sullentrop made a motion to table HB 2262. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Chairman Rhoades reviewed the agenda for next week's committee meetings, which will include work on **HB 2393**.

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

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Marc Rhoades, Chairman