

Approved: February 10, 2012

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Marc Rhoades at 9:05 AM on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 in room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Lana Gordon - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Director, Legislative Research Department

J.G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department

Dylan Dear, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department

Michael Wales, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Nobuko Folmsbee, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Cindy O'Neal, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holscher, Committee Assistant

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Representative Brown made a motion to introduce legislation regarding modification to the rural zones. Representative Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Helen Pedigo, Special Counsel to Chief Justice Lawton Nuss, provided a brief overview of the Pegasus Project and introduced presenters from the Judicial Branch. Copies of the Blue Ribbon Commission Report Briefing were distributed to committee members (Attachment 1).

Judge David King, Chief Judge of the First Judicial District, and Chair of the Weighted Caseload Study, presented an overview of the Weighted Caseload Study.

Judge King responded to questions from committee members regarding the number of hours district judges spend driving and actual hours spent working on cases. The use of technology would assist in reducing travel time, e-filing for judges to access court files and video conferencing. Staffing issues have been addressed in the legislature regarding the ability to move judges and court clerk staff to areas that are understaffed, he stated. As requested by a committee member, caseload studies from the past five years, by district and including staff changes will be provided, he stated.

Judge Patrick McAnany, Kansas Court of Appeals Judge and Chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission, provided an overview of the commission. He stated that the weighted caseload study

CONTINUATION SHEET

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provided the commission with legislative recommendations for efficiencies. Those findings included the illumination of one judge per county and funding for e-filings and related computer systems to aid the efficiencies of the court. A review of the judicial district map followed. The state funds 98% of the salaries for judges and clerks, whereas, the county pays for facilities and internal operations support, he noted.

Judge McAnany responded to questions from committee members. He noted that the full report is on-line.

Judge Patrick McAnany, discussed increased efficiencies obtainable through enhanced technology. As requested by a committee member, the outstanding collection data will be forthcoming. A review of the county court structure and staffing issues followed. Discussion continued regarding docket fees and fines. The impact of declining populations in rural communities and court services was discussed.

Helen Pedigo stated that two bills been introduced that would strike the one judge per county requirement and would authorize a fee for e-filing. The Supreme Court is ready to go forward with these bills, she noted.

Kelly O'Brien, Director of Information Systems responded to questions from committee members. He stated the vision will be a centralized web service for e-filing and a centralized state-wide case management system that would share resources. Discussion followed regarding security and hardware needs. Additional information was requested regarding the components for a \$1.8 million technology project, by committee members.

Chairman Rhoades made a motion to introduce the Governor's Budget Multi-Year and Capitol Improvement bill. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

As requested, committee members received information on Capital Improvements Expenditures for FY 2012 approved and FY 2012 Governor's Recommendation for the State General Fund (Attachment 2).

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.