

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Vratil at 9:37 a.m. on March 14, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Pugh (excused)

Committee staff present:

Gordon Self, Revisor
Mike Heim, Research
Mary Blair, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Judge Richard Ballinger, 18th Judicial District, Wichita, Kansas
Tom Stanton, Assistant District Attorney, Reno County, Kansas
Doug Hansen, Kansas City Kansas Police Department
Shawn Beck, Kansas City Kansas Police Department

Others attending: see attached list

The minutes of the March 13th, 2002 meeting were approved on a motion by Senator Donovan, seconded by Senator Schmidt. Carried.

HB 2697—allowing judges discretion to transfer a chapter 61 case to a chapter 60 case

Conferee Ballinger testified in support of **HB 2697**, a bill which would authorize judges to exercise discretion in converting limited actions cases to general civil cases. The conferee discussed the bill and stated that it would expedite cases as well as eliminate the use of current law as a vehicle to delay cases and frustrate Chapter 61 cases.(attachment 1) Discussion followed.

HB 2075—proposed substitute bill concerning methamphetamine and other substances

SB 515—methamphetamine and other substances

SB 612—use of asset forfeited property for methamphetamine enforcement.

The Chair described the proposed substitute bill, a bill which addresses the statewide methamphetamine (meth) problem, stating that it contains sections 2-6 of **SB 515** and the provisions of **SB 612**. Senator Schmidt explained the purpose of the substitute bill stating that it provides an equitable way to alleviate the disproportionate burden placed on local taxpayers in rural areas who are dealing with the statewide methamphetamine problem.(no attachment)

Conferee Stanton testified in support of **HB 2075**. He presented a breakdown of the most serious meth cases in his county, discussed the costs of investigation and the lack of funding, and offered his support of the meth enforcement fund. He further discussed why he did not support the reduction of criminal penalties as proposed in **SB 515** and offered alternative suggestions. He also asked Committee to consider an amendment to the bill to clarify the definition of “manufacture.”(attachment 2)

Conferee Hansen testified in support of **HB 2075**. He discussed provisions from **SB 515** and **SB 612** which address arson, pressurized anhydrous ammonia, and the grant enforcement program and stated that they greatly increase the ability of law enforcement to combat the growing meth problem in Kansas.(attachment 3)

Conferee Beck testified in support of **HB 2075**. He described his experience as a clandestine operations officer working on meth cases and discussed the need for funding for KCPD for proper equipment and certification training. (no attachment)

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The March 15th meeting is on call of the Chair and the next scheduled meeting is March 18th.