

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 11:45 a.m. on March 20, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Deena Horst- excused  
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Rena Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dennis McKinney, Treasurer, State of Kansas  
April Holman, Director of Economic Policy, Kansas Action for Children  
Jackie Freed, Kansas Partners in Asset Development (written only)  
Reginald Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents (written only)  
Don Jordan, Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (written only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Rhoades moved to approve the minutes of March 10, 11, and 12. Seconded by Representative Palmer, the motion passed.

**Hearing and action on SB 225 - Low-income family postsecondary savings accounts incentive program**

Chairman Huntington opened the hearing on **SB 225**. Rena Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that **SB 225** would extend the Low-Income Family Postsecondary Savings Accounts Incentive Program indefinitely and would make several changes to the administration of the program. The bill would clarify that qualifying household income would be from the tax year prior to the submitted application, rather than at the time of application. Applications would be submitted each year to report the household income. The bill would allow the State Treasurer to approve 300 applications from each congressional district for a total of 1,200 applications each year. The State Treasurer would be directed to transfer matching funds from the State General Fund to the Kansas Postsecondary Education Savings Program Trust Fund, not to exceed the maximum amount specified by an appropriation act for that state fiscal year. (Attachment 1)

Dennis McKinney, Treasurer, State of Kansas, and Director of the Learning Quest Postsecondary Education Savings Program, appeared in support of **SB 225**. He explained that the program was created as a three-year pilot program in 2006 and assigned to the Treasurer's Office as part of the Learning Quest Education Savings Program. **SB 225** is based on his recommendation to continue the program on a permanent basis providing a \$600 matching grant to up to 1,200 participants each year. He provided a copy of his report to the Legislature outlining the participation in the program during the three-year pilot period. (Attachment 2)

April Holman, Director of Economic Policy, Kansas Action for Children, testified in support of **SB 225** to prevent expiration of the Low-Income Family Postsecondary Savings Accounts Incentive Program. As a public-private partnership, the program gives low-income Kansas families the opportunity to establish a 529 College Savings Plan, and encourages these families to save for their children's education. The program was designed to strengthen our future workforce and the availability of skilled workers in our state by helping more Kansas children obtain a degree or job training. (Attachment 3)

Jackie Freed, Kansas Partners in Asset Development, submitted written testimony urging passage of **SB 225**, stating that the opportunity for higher education and the incentive this bill provides represents a valuable opportunity to invest in the future of the Kansas economy and its citizens. (Attachment 4)

Reginald Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, provided written testimony expressing the Board of Regents' support for **SB 225** to extend the Kansas Postsecondary Education Savings Program to help low-income Kansans prepare for and pursue their higher education goals. (Attachment 5)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 11:45 a.m. on March 20, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

Don Jordan, Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, submitted written testimony in support of **SB 225** to continue the Kansas Postsecondary Education Savings Program to help low-income individuals and families save for education and training, creating opportunities for them and for future generations. (Attachment 6)

As there were no other conferees, the hearing on **SB 225** was closed.

Chairman Huntington then opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Palmer moved to recommend **SB 225** favorably for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Mah. Discussion ensued.

Representative McLeland offered a substitute motion to amend **SB 225** on page 2, line 20, by inserting the word "accounts" after "1,200." Seconded by Representative Moxley, the motion carried.

Representative McLeland moved to amend **SB 225** on page 2, line 23, by reinstating the sunset provision with a date of June 30, 2012. Seconded by Representative Rhoades, the motion failed.

Representative Rhoades moved to amend **SB 225** by reinstating the language on page 3, lines 9 - 17, after "On or before January 15, 2009" on line 9. Seconded by Representative Tony Brown, the motion carried.

Representative Mah moved to strike the Senate amendment to **SB 225** on page 2, lines 40-43, after "calendar year," on line 40, and on page 3, line 1, before "On or before." Seconded by Representative Moxley, the motion failed.

Representative Mah moved to recommend **SB 225**, as amended, favorably for passage. Seconded by Representative McLeland, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. This was the last scheduled meeting of the House Higher Education Committee for the 2009 Legislative Session.