

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 9:30 a.m. on January 17, 2001 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department
 Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
 JoAnn Buntten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

 Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary for Health Care Policy, SRS
 Bill Riley, Chairman, Business-Health Policy Committee
 Matthew D. All, Assistant Commissioner, Kansas Insurance Department

Others attending: See attached list.

Update on the Kansas Business Health Policy Committee

Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary for Health Care Policy, SRS, provided an update on the activities of the Kansas Business Health Policy Committee which was created by the 2000 Kansas Legislature that enacted the Kansas Business Health Partnership Act in HB 2005. The Act provides a mechanism to combine federal and state subsidies with contributions from employers and employees to purchase health insurance for uninsured low wage employees of small employers. Ms. Howard outlined the duties and responsibilities under the Act for the Kansas Health Partnership and the activities of the Business Health Policy Committee as noted in her written testimony. (Attachment 1)

A member of the Committee requested Ms. Howard provide a list of members on the Kansas Business Health Policy Committee.

Bill Riley, Manhattan, Chairman of the Kansas Business Health Policy Committee, provided information on the progress of the KBHP Committee and issues that needed to be addressed.

Update on HRSA Grant

Matthew D. All, Assistant Commissioner, Kansas Insurance Department, briefed the Committee on the State Planning Grant that was received from the Health Resources and Services Administration, a division of the US Department of Health and Human Services, to study those without health insurance in Kansas as outlined in his written testimony. (Attachment 2)

Introduction of bills

The Chair requested introduction of a bill proposed by Senator Feleciano that would require prior written authorization for any automatic withdrawals from a bank account. Senator Teichman made a motion that the Committee introduce the proposed legislation, seconded by Senator Steineger. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 18, 2001.