

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:30 a.m. on February 12, 2001, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: All present

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amory Lovin, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor, Revisor of Statutes Office
Julie Weber, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Andy Sanchez, Executive Assistant to the President, The Kansas Association of Public Employees
Bobbi Mariani, Director, Division of Personnel Services

Others attending: See attached guest list

Chairman Morris referred the following bills to the KPERS Issues Subcommittee:

SB 267 - Increasing maximum retirement benefit for judges

SB 268 - Phased in increase in maximum retirement benefit for judges

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 304 - State officers and employees, compensation increase

Chairman Morris welcomed Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department, who briefed the Committee on the bill. Mr. Conroy distributed the following information:

- Governor's Recommended Pay Plan Adjustments, FY 2002 (Attachment 1)
- Increases in Salaries for State Classified Employees, Regents' Faculty and Classroom Teachers in Private Sector Wages, and in the Rate of Inflation (Attachment 2)
- Increases in Salaries for State Classified Employees, FY 1987 - FY 2002 (Gov. Rec.) (Attachment 3)

Chairman Morris welcomed Andy Sanchez, Executive Assistant to the President, The Kansas Association of Public Employees, KAPE/AFT, AFL-CIO, who spoke in favor of **SB 304** (Attachment 4). Mr. Sanchez mentioned that the bill takes a step toward being more competitive. Mr. Sanchez noted that KAPE is suggesting, at the behest of their members, to continue a 14-year tradition of providing the merit step increase and a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA). He mentioned that KAPE suggests this as an alternative to the Governor's recommendations. Mr. Sanchez urged bringing Correctional Officers to a compensation level in accordance with a wage negotiated in good faith, and recommended by the Secretary of Corrections, to the state's Correctional Officers. Committee questions and discussion followed. The Chairman thanked Mr. Sanchez for his appearance before the Committee.

Chairman Morris welcomed Bobbi Mariani, Director, Division of Personnel Services, who spoke in support of **SB 304** (Attachment 5). Ms. Mariani mentioned that the Governor's Pay Plan immediately improves starting pay and spreads the available salary resources as broadly as possible to all state employees. Ms. Mariani mentioned that in order to bring the state pay matrix more in line with the

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current market, the Governor is proposing a 3 percent general increase to the entire pay matrix during Fiscal Year 2002. This was further detailed in Ms. Mariani's testimony. Committee questions and discussion followed. The Chairman thanked Ms. Mariani for appearing before the Committee.

There being no further conferees, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 304**.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2001.