

Approved: _____
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on January 22, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Jordan

Committee staff present: Ms. Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mr. Robert Williams, Lobbyist for KS Pharmacist Assoc.
For Ms. Susan Linn, Exec. Secy. Board of Pharmacy
Ms. Leann Schmitz, Legislative Post Auditor
Ms. Mary Blubaugh, MSN, RN, Executive Director,
Kansas State Board of Nursing

Others attending: See attached guest list.

Chairperson Wagle opened the meeting by referring to the handout consisting of a letter from Ms. Connie Hubbell, Kansas Department on Aging. The letter answered the questions raised by Committee members during their agency overview on January 16, 2001. A copy of the letter is (Attachment #1) attached hereto and incorporated into Minutes by reference.

Introduction of Bills

With this said and done, Chairperson Wagle inquired of the bill request from Ms. Susan Linn, Executive Secretary, Board of Pharmacy. Mr. Robert Williams, Lobbyist for the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy announced that Ms. Linn had been detained and that he would be requesting that a bill be introduced creating a registry for pharmacy technicians in the state of Kansas. He stated that this had been introduced last year but had run into some problems, requiring that in order for an individual to practice as a technician, they would have to be on the registry. It would also provide some oversights for the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy to exclude, suspend, or remove a person from its registry if the board determines that the person violated policies as outlined in the bill (ex. Substance abuse) Lastly, the bill would maintain as requested, a ratio of pharmacy technicians to pharmacists of two to one. A motion was made by Senator Praeger that the committee hears the proposed bill. Senator Barnett seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Legislative Post Audit Briefing

The Chair introduced Ms. Leann Schmitz, Legislative Post Auditor. Ms. Schmitz presented a report from the Legislative Division of Post Audit which contained findings, conclusions, and recommendations from the Legislative Post auditors completed the "PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT Board of Nursing: Assessing Its Efficiencies and Effectiveness in Carrying Out Its Administrative Responsibilities." The audit explored problems and possible solutions regarding the handling of licensing and fees and the handling of complaints and investigations. A copy of the presentations and the audit are (Attachments #2 and 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference. Following the presentation, Chairperson Wagle requested comments or questions from the committee. A lengthy discussion between Senator Salmans and Ms. Schwartz ensued concerning averaging of investigations and clarification of staff vacancies. Ms. Schwartz referred the committee to pages 14 & 15 of the audit for her responses. With no further comments or questions, the Chair thanked Ms. Schwartz for her presentation.

Chairperson Wagle then introduced Ms. Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administrator, Kansas State Board of Nursing, who presented a short update of her testimony in response to the LPAR (Legislative Performance Audit Report). Ms. Blubaugh said, in general, the Kansas State Board of Nursing concurred with the recommendations of the findings and confirmed what the agency staff identified as problems, especially staffing shortages. She proceeded to explain the steps that have taken place relating to the license applications, license fees, and two issues in the disciplinary department. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment #4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Again, following the presentation, Chairperson Wagle requested comments or questions from the Committee. Senators Salmans, Brungardt, Barnett and Praeger asked questions ranging from installation of the new computer software in relation to the staff shortages (is the situation new or ongoing, sees that with automation and mechanization this should reduce employee shortages.), Investigation numbers being up or down, and monitoring quarterly reports (kept current, follow-ups, etc.). The last question was answered by Diane Glynn, Practice Specialist of Ms. Blubaugh's staff.

Adjournment

With no further questions, Chairperson Wagle again thanked the conferees for their presentations and adjourned the meeting. The time was 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2001.