

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Morris at 10:40 a.m. on February 11, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Tim Huelskamp - excused  
Senator Nick Jordan - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Becky Krahl, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Bromich, Assistant to the Chairman  
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

J. Michael Hayden, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Others attending: See attached list

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

**HB 2621 – Benefits and eligibility of members of KPERS**

**HB 2622 – Contribution rates for local police and fire pension plans**

**HB 2626 – Rollover of certain retirement distributions for the purpose of the purchase of service credit in KPERS**

Subcommittee reports on:

**State Hospitals (Attachment 1)**

(Larned State Hospital, Osawatomie State Hospital, Rainbow Mental Health Facility, Kansas Neurological Institute, Parsons State Hospital and Training Center)

Subcommittee Chairman Morris reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendation for FY 2002 but did note some concerns and observations in the FY 2003 Subcommittee report.

Subcommittee Chairman Morris reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendation for FY 2003 with comments and observations as listed in the Subcommittee report.

Committee questions and discussion followed.

Chairman Morris recognized Senator Feleciano who presented talking points in regard to the closure of State psychiatric hospital beds. Chairman Morris mentioned that the concerns presented by Senator Feleciano will be added as an attachment to the Subcommittee report on the State Hospitals (Attachment 2).

Senator Schodorf moved, with a second by Senator Jackson, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the State Hospitals for the FY 2002 and FY 2003 budget. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Chairman Morris welcomed J. Michael Hayden, Secretary, Department of Wildlife and Parks, who presented an overview of the Department of Wildlife and Parks (Attachment 3). Secretary Hayden

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highlighted information regarding relations with the Federal Government, Wildlife Management, State Parks, Finances, various future issues and explained the Kansas Deer Management Program. He noted that the Department is in good shape financially and there is very little turnover. Secretary Hayden did note that Kansas has the smallest extent of public land in the nation. Committee questions and discussion followed.

In response to a question by Senator Feleciano, Secretary Hayden explained that he felt that the State ought to try to buy all the water possible. He mentioned that it had come to his attention that the Norton Reservoir is for sale and he feels that the State should buy it with a portion of the dollars coming from the Colorado water lawsuit and it was discussed with the Committee. The Chairman thanked Secretary Hayden for his appearance before the Committee.

Chairman Morris noted that new Legislative Fiscal Analyst Assignments – FY 2003 were distributed to the Committee (Attachment 4).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2002.