

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patricia Barbieri-Lightner at 3:30 p.m. on February 12, 2004 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative Ray Cox- excused

Committee staff present:
Bill Wolff Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes
Renaë Hansen, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Representative Mario Goico
Jarrod Forbes, Kansas Insurance Department
Terry Heidner, Kansas Department of Transportation
Lt. John Eichkorn, Kansas Highway Patrol
Tom Stoltz, Deputy Chief, Wichita Police Dept.
Gary Steed, Sheriff, Sedgewick County
Representative Tom Holland
Darren Maples, Wellsville, KS
Larrie Ann Lower,

Others attending:
Twenty four, including but not limited to attached list.

On point of personal preference Representative Cindy Neighbor introduced her intern for the 2004 session, Julie Ewe, studying public administration and law.

Hearing on:
HB 2628: Insurance; prohibiting change in a health insurance policy during the current term of the policy.

Representative Tom Holland, 10th district (Attachment #1), offered an introduction to the committee on this bill, and comments in support of **HB 2628**.

Darren Maples, (Attachment #2), presented personal testimony explaining how his small business insurance plan was changed mid year after meeting his deductible was changed from 100% to an 80%-20% split.

Questions and comments were posed by Representatives Bob Grant, Scott Schwab, Cindy Neighbor, Jan Scoggins-Waite.

Laurie Ann Lower, Kansas Association of Health Plans, asked the chair to reserve the right to present testimony at a later time. Permission was so granted

Fiscal note for **HB 2628** was presented.

Hearing closed on **HB 2628**.

Hearing on:
HB 2563: Motor Vehicles; increase amount for reporting accidents to \$1,000.

Representative Mario Goico, 100th district, (Attachment #3), presented testimony in favor of **HB 2563** that modifies KSA8-1606 and KSA8-1611 that would change the dollar amount of an accident from \$500 to \$1,000 the amount estimated that requires an investigation for a non-injury accident.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Questions were posed by Representative David Huff, Nile Dillmore, and Scott Schwab.

Jarrold Forbes, Kansas Insurance Department, (Attachment #4), spoke in favor of this bill noting that it had the potential of saving cities and municipalities thousands of dollars without adversely affecting the insurance market in Kansas.

Questions were posed by Representative Bob Grant, and Jan Scoggins-Waite.

Terry Heidner, Director of Planning and Development, Kansas Department of Transportation, (Attachment #5), spoke in favor of the bill and requested the bill contain a start date of January 1, 2005 as it makes a better breaking point to coincide with the date of accident statistic reporting for a calendar year and gives them time to make the adjustment out in the field. Additionally, the old statute contains the line whereby the data be submitted by magnetic tape, which is no longer used, and his request was that the information be able to be electronically submitted.

Questions were posed by Representative Nile Dillmore.

John Eichkorn, Lieutenant, Kansas Highway Patrol, (Attachment #6), spoke on behalf of Colonel William Seck and the Kansas Highway Patrol in support of **HB 2563**. In addition, he noted that they would also be in favor of the Kansas Department of Transportation's recommendations.

Thomas J. Stolz, Deputy Chief of Police, Wichita Police Department, (Attachment #7), presented some raw data showing the difference in man hours that changing the damage dollar amount would have on the budget for the City of Wichita. Attached also are the reports they have to fill out and data concerning total report numbers and how many of those reports require state forms. Additionally they would support any higher dollar amount the committee would like to consider.

Questions and comments were posed by Representatives Nile Dillmore, Bob Grant, David Huff, Cindy Neighbor, Mary Kauffman, Nancy Kirk, and Patricia Barbieri-Lightner.

Gary Steed, Sheriff, Sedgwick County, Kansas, (Attachment #8), submitted written testimony in favor of the bill.

There were no opponents to the **HB 2563**.

The fiscal note was presented for **HB 2563**.

The hearing was closed on **HB 2563**.

Representative Bob Grant moved we pass **HB 2547** out of committee favorably, seconded by Representative Nile Dillmore.

Discussion ensued over the time frame of getting the bill worked the quickest with the particular amendments that might be presented concerning the bill.

Representative Bob Grant withdrew his motion.

Representative Bob Grant moved to amend **HB 2547** to be affective on publication of the register, seconded by Representative Cindy Neighbor, motion passed unanimously.

Representative Bob Grant moved to pass **HB 2547** out of committee favorably as amended, seconded by Representative Mike Burgess, motion passed unanimously.

It was decided Representative Mike Burgess would carry this bill to the floor of the Kansas House of Representatives.

Meeting Adjourned.