

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe McLeland at 1:30 P.M. on February 25, 2008 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research
Leah Robinson, Kansas Legislative Research
Matt Todd, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Dee Heideman, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Madonna Wilson, Citizen's Group
Diane Gjerstad, Director of Government Relations, Wichita Public Schools
Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards
Bob Vancrum, Kansas Government Affairs Specialist, Blue Valley Schools
David Hartman, President Classified Senate, Pittsburg State University
Julene Miller, General Counsel, Kansas Board of Regents
Krystal Hutfles, County Clerk, Rawlins County

Others attending:

See attached list.

HB 2693 - School districts; capital outlay; limitation on frequency of adoption of resolution.

This bill was briefly explained by Matt Todd.

Hearing on **HB 2693** began with Representative Kiegerl explaining he was a proponent of this bill because any tax increases by school districts would have to be approved by the voters and if the voters voted it down, it could not be resubmitted for one year. This would create some transparency and voters would know where money was being spent. There were no copies of testimony submitted.

Madonna Wilson, speaking in favor of passage of this bill which would correct the unjust laws governing the Capital Outlay Tax. The law would be amended so when a resolution to levy or increase the Capital Outlay Tax is made by the school board, the issue must be voted on by the registered voters in the school district without a petition being necessary. (Attachment #1)

Written testimony was submitted by Richard Mallatt, Jr., who is in favor of this bill because local communities should have a voice in the building and maintenance programs of their school districts. (Attachment #2)

Diane Gjerstad spoke in opposition because capital outlay is critical for districts to keep pace with their facility infrastructure. Requiring districts to have elections will place consistent capital funding source in jeopardy. (Attachment #3)

In opposing this bill, Tom Krebs, stated requiring the patrons to approve any and all outlay requests will restrict a board's ability to be effective stewards of the district's major asset, its physical plant. (Attachment #4)

Bob Vancrum is in opposition to this bill because he feels there are plenty checks and balances under state law right now as to districts levying a capital outlay mill levy. Each district is controlled by a school board that serves at the pleasure of the same voting electorate and taxpayers that elect state representatives. (Attachment #5)

Gary George supplied written testimony in opposition because he does not believe there is a need for this law. (Attachment #6)

Opposing written testimony submitted by Eric Stafford was passed out stating that the Associated General

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Contractors of Kansas feels this could have far reaching effects for the buildings in school districts, potentially resulting in a backlog of maintenance projects across the state that could compare to the deferred maintenance facing the Board of Regents. (Attachment #7)

The Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2693**

HB 2611 - Conversion of certain employees of state educational institutions to unclassified service; leave time for classified employees of state educational institutions.

Matt Todd reported this bill concerned conversion of classified employees of state educational institutions to the same leave time as unclassified employees.

David Hartman testified on behalf of the classified employees of Pittsburg State University stating they want to receive vacation time equal to that of the unclassified staff. He felt that it would aid in hiring and maintaining employees. Since they would not be hiring temporary staff when an employee is on vacation, this bill would have no fiscal impact. (Attachment #8)

Next, Julene Miller, a proponent of **HB 2611**, said this legislation would authorize the Board to allow state universities to place University Support Staff on the same footing as classified employees at the universities in terms of increased leave benefits. (Attachment #9)

The hearing on **HB 2611** were closed by the Chairman.

HB 2858 - Fort Hays state university foundation, authorized investing agent

The purpose of this bill was merely a name change according to Matt Todd of the Revisor's Office.

The Chair asked for conferees on this bill, and since no one came forth, he closed the hearing.

HB 2909 - Recreation commissions; consolidated school district; tax levy.

A short synopsis of this bill was given by Matt Todd.

Krystal Hutfles speaking for Rawlins County is in favor of including the recreation system in school consolidation. (Attachment #10)

Chairman McLeland then closed the hearing on this bill.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:05 PM.

The next meeting will be held on March 5, 2008 in Room 514-S at 1:30 PM.