

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:40 p.m. on March 20, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Janis Lee- excused
Ruth Teichman- excused

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Possible action on bills previously heard:

HB 2123 – School districts; transportation of students residing outside the district

Senator Vratil proposed to amend **HB 2123** by deleting all of the language and inserting the amendment concerning the second count date for school districts which he offered at the March 19 meeting with regard to **HB 2159**. The amendment would make the second count date available to all school districts whose enrollment has increased by 1 percent or 25 students between September 20 and February 20.

Dale Dennis, Interim Commissioner of Education, distributed copies of a memorandum with a computer printout attached which estimates the cost if the provisions of **HB 2159** were made applicable to all unified school districts. (Attachment 1) In his opinion, implementation of this would not be at a cost of \$8,555,000 as shown on the printout. Instead, he believes that the actual amount would be approximately \$6.5 million as there is a tendency to overestimate for the unknown. Committee discussion followed.

Senator Vratil moved to amend **HB 2123** by striking all of the provisions and inserting the provisions in the balloon amendment he offered on March 19 and by adding a provision that makes it subject to appropriations, seconded by Senator Allen. The motion carried.

Senator Vratil moved to recommend **HB 2123** favorably for passage as amended, seconded by Senator Allen. The motion carried.

HB 2343 – Establishing the early high school graduation incentive program

Senator Schodorf reminded the Committee that **HB 2343** had two parts and that the second part would exempt individuals from paying tuition if they were a resident of Kansas and served in the United States military in Iraq or Afghanistan for 90 days or more. She noted that Senator Umbarger introduced a veteran's bill, and perhaps the military portion of **HB 2343** could be amended into his bill if he chooses to run it.

Senator Pine commented that the intent of the bill was positive, but he did not believe that there were very many students who could complete high school in three years. In addition, he expressed his opinion that the bill should not be limited to training for the construction trade.

Mr. Dennis informed the Committee that several superintendents told him that very, very few high school students are able to graduate in three years; however, many students have graduated in three and one-half years. He estimated that the fiscal note would be approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000. Committee discussion followed, and it was the consensus of the Committee to take no action on the bill and recommend that it be the topic of an interim study.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2007.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:40 P.M. on March 20, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.