

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Melvin Neufeld at 9:00 a.m. on February 20, 2004 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Jo Ann Pottorff- excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research  
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research  
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research  
Leah Robinson, Legislative Research  
Michele Alishahi, Legislative Research  
Susan Kannarr, Legislative Research  
Robert Waller, Legislative Research  
Amy Deckard, Legislative Research  
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes  
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes  
Nikki Feuerborn, Administrative Analyst  
Shirley Jepson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Duane Goossen, Director of the Budget  
Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Audit

Others attending:

See Attached List.

- Attachment 1 Proposed amendment on **SB 312**
- Attachment 2 Testimony by Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Audit, on **SB 365**
- Attachment 3 Information on Technology Equipment request by Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS)

Representative Landwehr moved to introduce legislation concerning financial assistance for K-12 disadvantaged children. The motion was seconded by Representative Bethell. Motion carried.

Chair Neufeld recognized Susan Kannarr, Legislative Research Department, who explained that **SB 312**, as originally written, would have extended the change in the levy on fire insurance premiums that is used to fund the Fire Marshal and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and would have extended the sunset. Under legislation passed in 2002, a levy of 1% on fire insurance premiums would go to fund the State Fire Marshal and 0.25% would help fund EMS. The sunset was extended to FY 2008 under the original bill. The Senate removed the sunset making the levy in perpetuity on the distribution of those funds. The House Budget Committee further amended the bill to reduce the State Fire Marshall rate to 0.8%, left the EMS rate at 0.25% and added 0.20% to go to the Fire Service Training Institute at the University of Kansas. In addition, the House Budget Committee amendment requires a report by the Fire Services Training Institute, to the full Committee on Appropriations by February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, describing their expenditures and activities.

Representative Light, Chair of the Public Safety Budget Committee, stated that the Budget Committee accepted the language proposed by the Senate on **SB 312** and added an amendment regarding the Fire Service Training Institute (Attachment 1).

Representative Light moved to adopt the Public Safety Budget Committee report on amending **SB 312**. The motion was seconded by Representative Minor. Motion carried.

Representative Light moved to pass **SB 312** favorably as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Merrick. Motion carried.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE at 9:00 a.m. on February 20, 2004 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

### Hearing on HB 2706 - State finance council, voting procedures.

J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2706** concerns the State Finance Council voting procedures. Under current law, all nine members of the State Finance Council must be present to pass any procedure that requires a unanimous vote, primarily affecting the usage of the State Emergency Fund. **HB 2706** allows for an absentee vote to be made before or up to ten days after a meeting with such action by the State Finance Council.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Duane Goossen, Director of Budget, who presented testimony in support of **HB 2706**. Mr. Goossen stated that in times of an emergency, such as tornado, flood or other emergency, the State needs to match federal moneys with State General Fund (SGF) moneys in order to help victims affected by these disasters. Current law allows transfer up to \$10 million from the SGF to the emergency fund with a vote of the State Finance Council. **HB 2706** would expedite this procedure to make emergency funds available by allowing Council members to vote without being present at the meeting.

The Committee questioned the use of a facsimile signature. Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes, stated that facsimile signatures are accepted in court filings.

The Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2706**.

Representative Howell moved to pass **HB 2706** favorably. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

### Hearing on HB 2886 - Prescribing restrictions on salary increases for certain state employees.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Leah Robinson, Legislative Research Department, who explained that **HB 2886** requires that a state agency submit a written report to both the director of the Budget and director of Legislative Research, before a salary increase outside of a normal pay plan would become effective for a state employee in three situations:

- When the employee is in unclassified service
- An employee who moves from the classified service to the unclassified service
- An employee who returns to a classified position from an approved leave of absence from the classified service to take a position in the unclassified service

Responding to a question from the Committee, Ms. Robinson stated that the bill is directed at the executive branch only. The Committee concluded that the bill does not discourage salary increases; however, requires that a report be submitted before the salary increase becomes effective.

The Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2886**.

Representative Light moved to pass **HB 2886** favorably. The motion was seconded by Representative Merrick. Motion carried.

### Hearing on SB 365 - Deleting a provision in the post audit statute prohibiting a person who is regulated by the KCC from being audited by post audit.

Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department, explained that **SB 365** removes the existing exceptions that Legislative Post Audit (LPA) may not audit any entities regulated by the State Corporation Commission. An amendment offered by the Senate Ways and Means Committee clarifies that LPA may only address items related to state government programs or functions.

The Chair recognized Barb Hinton, LPA, who testified in favor of **SB 365** (Attachment 2).

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Hinton stated that the legislation gives LPA the authority to go out-of-state to audit out-of-state companies involved in business within the State to review their records.

Chairman Neufeld closed the hearing on **SB 365**.

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Representative McLeland presented a written response from the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, (KPERS) to questions of the Committee concerning the agency's request for funding of an improved technology system (Attachment 3).

Representative Shriver moved to introduce legislation concerning public broadcasting. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 24, 2004.