

Approved: 3/1/07
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Brunk at 9:03 A.M. on January 25, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Brenda Landwehr- excused
Candy Ruff- excused

Committee staff present:
Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dustin Slinkard, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Stephen Bainum, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Jim Garner, Secretary, Department of Labor

Others attending:
See attached list.

The Chairman asked for new bill Introductions. Representative Grant introduced a bill about Out of State Vending Machines. It was approved by the committee.

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, Jim Garner, Secretary, Department of Labor.

Jim distributed his testimony to the committee members. He gave a brief update of the Department's oversight of the unemployment insurance program, the worker's compensation system, the Industrial Safety and Health division, the enforcement of the employment laws, the Public Employers and Employees Relations Act and the Public Negotiations Act.

During his presentation he introduced several other people in his Department. Paula Greathouse was introduced as the Director of the Division of Workers Compensation. Steve Zink is the Director of KDOL's Division of Industrial Safety and Health. Dorthy Stites is the Director of the Labor Market Information Division. KDOL's Chief Counsel, A.J. Kotich who is responsible for enforcing Kansas employment laws was introduced.

Jim told the committee about the modernization of their Unemployment Insurance computer system. They are currently evaluating project proposals and hope to have the system operational in 18 months.

The Chairman again asked if there were any bill introductions. A bill was introduced having to do with the Grievance Process.

The committee was adjourned at 9:59 A.M.