

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dr. Kim Wilcox, Executive Director of Kansas Board of Regents
Dr. Andy Thompkins, Commissioner of the Board of Education

Others attending: See attached sheet.

SB 11 - Vocational education, supervision of programs

Chairperson Benlon opened hearings on **SB 11**. Dr. Kim Wilcox, Executive Director of Kansas Board of Regents, testified in support of **SB 11**. He gave an overview of the bill involving the management and operation of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education program, and explained that it was the last component to be addressed in the transfer of responsibilities from the Board of Education to the Board of Regents. He told the Committee that this came about by a directive from the Legislature to develop a joint plan for the Perkins' program. Dr. Wilcox said that with the passage of **SB 11**, the Department of Education would continue as the sole supervisory agency through June 30, 2004, and on July 1 of that year those duties would transfer to the Board of Regents. He added that the two Boards have signed a Memorandum of Agreement whereby they will maintain the 50/50 division of funds, as well as develop a joint oversight team with staff from the two agencies to cooperatively administer the program. (Attachment 1)

General questions and discussion by Committee members regarded the transfer of positions and funding between the two agencies, how the Perkins funds are used at the secondary level, funds go to programs not to students, advantage for technical schools and colleges to offer post-secondary instruction and not secondary in a purely financial sense, first time they have a structure that will let them look at both sides at the same time, more discretion in the use of funds and are pretty well confined by regulation.

The Chair asked the Committee if there was any interest in working this bill. The Revisor stated that this bill conflicted with Representative Morrison's bill, **HB 2001**, that established the Northwest Kansas Technical College because it also amends K.S.A. 72-4412, and is presently on the way to the Governor for signing after passing out of the Senate. She explained that she would need to strike all of Section 2 of K.S.A. 72-4412, and then reinsert K.S.A. 72-4412 as amended by HB 2001 in order to resolve the conflict.

Representative Tanner made a motion to pass SB 11 out favorably as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Storm, and the motion carried.

Dr. Andy Thompkins, Commissioner of the Board of Education, came into the Committee Room, and added a few comments regarding **SB 11**. He said that both agencies had worked closely together to come up with a plan for the Perkins program, and were extremely supportive of this action.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee will be on call of the Chair.