

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 1:40 p.m. on March 13, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: David Shreve, National Conference of State Legislatures

Others attending: See Attached List

Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/No Child Left Behind

Chairman Umbarger introduced David Shreve from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) giving the Committee a background of his experience with NCSL and experience prior to joining NCSL. Mr. Shreve has been traveling the country to explain the "No Child Left Behind" program to state legislators. The program has been accepted by some as the best thing that ever happened and by others as a disaster. The House version of the bill was pushed by the Republican majority in the House and the bill moved along quickly. The Senate version of the bill moved a little slower, but was also passed.

Mr. Shreve provided a summary of what President Bush proposed for changes to ESEA and what actually emerged in the bill. Mr. Shreve explained the concerns of NCSL with the new program, "No Child Left Behind." These concerns were also expressed in a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Leaders of both the House and the Senate in Washington. These concerns are listed in the attachment.
(Attachment 1)

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education, added that money for development of the test was provided, but the concern of the Board of Education is that the cost of administering the test was not provided. The other concern is for the loss of paras and teacher aids if they are required to go back to school two years. Kansas has over 8000 paras and if they were required to go back to school, Kansas could lose a lot of dedicated employees.

Mr. Shreve answered questions for the Committee as time permitted.

Meeting adjourned 2:30 p.m.