

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Arlen Siegfroid at 1:30 P.M. on February 14, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Judy Loganbill- excused
Representative Ray Merrick- excused
Representative Candy Ruff- excused
Representative Kenny Wilk- excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office
Carol Doel, Committee Secretary

Conferees:

Representative JoAnn Pottorf
Representative Bonnie Huy
Bradley Post - Attorney
Bob Keeshan - Attorney

Others attending:

See attached list

Vice-Chairman Siegfroid opened the floor for bill introductions and recognized Representative Cox who requested a bill regarding identity theft.

With no objections this bill was accepted for introduction.

The Vice-Chair opened the meeting for public hearing on **HB 2670** - relating to visitation by grandparents.

Representative Pottorf spoke to the committee supporting **HB 2670** - relating that the bill is important because it grants the right of visitation to grandparents who are otherwise not allowed to see their grandchildren. It provides for the child's best interest by allowing a building on and strengthening of a previously established relationship between the child and grandparents as well as maintains that visitation rights should always be granted in the best interests of the child. (Attachment 1)

Representative Huy also supports **HB 2670** and delivered testimony regarding the importance of grandparents visitation rights both to the child and the grandparent. (No Testimony)

Bradley Post, an attorney from Wichita, Ks. addressed the committee and stated that this would provide visitation rights for grandparents. Mr. Post opined that rights should be protected in visitation or parenting orders when requested by a party or a grandparent. He further related that the proposed amendments would not change the laws or requirement for the Court to find the visitation rights would be in the child's best interests and that a substantial relationship has been established. (Attachment 2)

Bob Keeshan, a practicing attorney in Topeka appeared before the committee to support **HB 2670**. It is his opinion that the bill will insure that grandparents can intervene and request visitation rights upon meeting constitution and statutory requirements of K.S.A. 60-1616, and it is in the child's best interest that a substantial relationship between the child and grandparent is established and that the court give material weight and deference to the position of a fit parent. (Attachment 3)

With no other person wishing to address the bill, Vice-Chairman Siegfroid closed the public hearing on **HB 2670**.

Attention was directed to the minutes of the Federal and State Affairs Committee from January 26th, January 31st, February 2nd and February 3rd.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 P.M. on February 14, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Representative Dillmore made a motion to adopt the minutes of January 26th, January 31st, February 2nd and February 6th as read. Representative Brunk seconded the motion. Minutes adopted.

With no further business before the committee, Vice-Chairman Siegfried adjourned the meeting.