

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:40 A.M. on January 16, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Jay Emler - Excused
Senator Mark Taddiken - Excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kristen Clarke Kellems, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cody Gorges, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Aaron Klaassen, Kansas Legislative Research
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Marcia Nielsen, PhD, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority
Fire Chief John Lloyd, Chairman, Kansas Fire Training Commission
Dan McLaughlin, State Fire Marshal

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introduction

Senator Morris moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to introduce a conceptual bill regarding establishing a rural policy commission (7rs1733). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Dr. Marcia Nielsen, PhD, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority, who presented an overview of the Kansas Health Policy Authority Programs: Medicaid, HealthWave and the State Employee Health Plan, which are detailed in Dr. Nielsen's written testimony (Attachment 1). Copies of the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board Health Reform Recommendations, updated, January 10, 2008, were also distributed (Attachment 2). Committee questions and discussion followed.

The Chairman turned the Committee's attention to consideration of the following bills:

HB 2587--Creating the wildlife and parks nonrestricted fund

On Tuesday, January 15, 2008, a motion was made by Senator Teichman, with a second by Senator Kelly, to recommend HB 2587 favorable for passage and be placed on the Consent Calendar. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

HB 2491--Increasing transfer of certain balances in the motor carrier license fees fund to the state highway fund

A hearing was held on HB 2491 on March 22, 2007. A motion was made, with a second, to recommend HB 2491 favorable for passage. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:30 A.M. on January 16, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

The Chairman turned the Committee's attention to discussion of state agencies that receive financing from fire insurance premiums.

Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department, who presented a staff briefing on Fire Insurance Premiums ([Attachment 3](#)).

Chairman Umbarger welcomed the following conferees:

Glen Pribbenow, Director, Fire and Rescue Training Institute, University of Kansas, who explained the pertinent history to provide a traveling instructional service for the Kansas fire service ([Attachment 4](#)). He also explained the application of the mission, which is their first priority, to train firefighters. Their program has three primary forms of oversight: the University of Kansas, Fire Service Training Commission, and the Legislature.

Fire Chief John Lloyd, Kansas Fire Training Commission, was present for questions. Chief Lloyd explained that without these dollars, they would not have been able to provide a training class for the Wellington, Winfield volunteer/private company. He noted that this was especially important for the South Haven Fire Department and it has been a successful program. (No written testimony was submitted.)

Dan McLaughlin, State Fire Marshal, provided information that since the splitting of the fire marshal fee fund a few years ago, it has had a negative impact on the agency that will continue into the future ([Attachment 5](#)). He noted that the agency is completely a fee funded agency. Mr. McLaughlin explained that as a public safety agency and a partner in Homeland Security and Disaster Response, they need to keep their programs operational and serve the citizens of Kansas. They asked for consideration on the distribution of these available funds and on making sure that they are able to continue in their operations in a financially responsible way in the future.

Due to time constraints, Robert Waller, Emergency Medical Services, was invited back to the Committee at a future meeting to continue the discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for January 17, 2008.