

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on February 3, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Bill Buntent- excused

Committee staff present:
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
Susan Kanarr, Legislative Research
Helen Pedigo, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Kraus, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Barb Reavis, Workforce Policy Liaison, Workforce Network of Kansas Board
Linda Weaver, Director, Policy, Planning and Employer Programs, KDHR

Others attending:
See Attached List.

Chairperson Brownlee opened the informational hearing on workforce development issues.

Ms. Reavis and Ms. Weaver presented testimony regarding the current structure of employment and training programs in Kansas, as well as the structure of workforce development. (Attachment 1) They also provided the committee with a map entitled, "Local Workforce Investment Areas Workforce Investment Act of 1998" (Attachment 2) and another entitled "Workforce/Economic Development Regions". (Attachment 3) They then went over "Workforce Development Funding in State Agencies (Attachment 4)", "Area WIA Allocations FY 03" (Attachment 5), and "State Performance Program Year 2002" (Attachment 6).

Chairperson Brownlee asked if as WIA is re-authorized at the federal level, is there consideration for any flexibility in boundaries. Ms. Reavis replied that while local communities can get together to change it, there is no legislation currently and there is a "hold harmless" provision that guarantees 90% funding if boundaries are not changed.

Following further discussion, Senator Jordan indicated that an NCSL study had resulted in finding Kansas spends four hundred million dollars on workforce development; Ms. Reavis responded that this figure included all temporary aid for families, so in reality the number is closer to twelve million.

In response to committee questions, Ms. Reavis stated that there is a federal formula that determines the amount of money for each area and that almost all monies are designated in this way.

Senator Kerr questioned the amount of funds spent on administration, and Ms. Reavis replied that there is a limit of 5% of total funds that can be spent on administration. She stated that there was a maximization of administrative dollars, but that in administration, those kinds of savings are not easily seen; it would be difficult to determine, for example, the amount spent on administration per service provided.

Ms. Reavis outlined for the committee what some of the differences were between the various programs, and expressed concern that there may be some double reporting. She stated that she would be happy to supply the committee with any additional information on programs it desired.

Chairperson Brownlee stated that she would be interested to know to whom programs are accountable and who walks in the door, etc.

The Chair announced that the hearing on **ERO 31** would be held the following morning.

Senator Barone asked if it would be possible to see performance levels by district.

Chairperson Brownlee adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. on

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE at 8:30 a.m. on February 3, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

February 4, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.