

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on February 11, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
Susan Kannarr, Legislative Research
Helen Pedigo, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Kraus, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Beehler, Ph.D. Dean, Barton School of Business, Wichita State University
Fran Jabara, Jabara Venture Group
Hal Hudson, NFIB
Wally Kearns, KSBDC
Matt Jordan, Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Chairperson Brownlee opened the public hearing on:

SB 393–Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship

Senator Jordan presented testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#))

John Beehler, Ph.D. Dean, Barton School of Business, Wichita State University presented testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 2](#))

Fran Jabara, Jabara Venture Group presented testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 3](#))

Hal Hudson, NFIB presented testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 4](#))

Wally Kearns, KSBDC presented testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 5](#))

Matt Jordan, Department of Commerce presented testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 6](#))

Written testimony in favor of the bill was submitted by Blake Schreck, President, Lenexa Chamber of Commerce ([Attachment 7](#)), Harry A. Watts, Kansas Farm Bureau ([Attachment 8](#)), and Wes Ashton, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. ([Attachment 9](#))

Senator Wagle asked if Wichita would be the center of the bill's intent for a Center for Entrepreneurship. Senator Jordan stated that it was a prime consideration. Mr. Kearns stated that the bill's intent would be to optimize operations, and that he hoped to develop a close relationship with Wichita and the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship. Senator Barone asked if this would duplicate the functions of SBDC. Mr. Kearns stated that in terms of the intake process, SBDC is similar, but that it is not able to provide continuing services in-depth. He stated that Sirolli would consider SBDC the specialist, so we need a general practitioner.

Following discussion, Senator Wagle suggested the committee consider an amendment to the bill to add a person on the board from Youth Entrepreneurs to take and spread the program to more schools.

Chairperson Brownlee adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on February 12, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.