

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Morris at 10:30 a.m. on February 3, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Administrative Analyst
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, Division of Legislative Post Audit

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Bill Introduction

Senator Jackson moved, with a second by Senator Helgerson, to introduce a bill concerning income taxation: relating to deduction for Washburn University retirement benefits (3rs1642). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris welcomed Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, Division of Legislative Post Audit, who presented a briefing on performance audits of interest to the committee regarding key findings/audit-related issues since the last session and audits issued during the last three years (Attachment 1).

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

SB 365--Deleting a provision in the post audit statute prohibiting a person who is regulated by the KCC from being audited by post audit

Chairman Morris welcomed Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, Division of Legislative Post Audit, who testified in favor of **SB 365** (Attachment 2). Ms. Hinton explained that under the Legislative Post Audit Act, the Legislative Post Audit Committee currently can direct their office to conduct performance audits of any State agency, any local unit of government, and any person or entity that contracts with, receives a gift or grant from, or is licensed or regulated by a State agency, except for entities regulated by the Kansas Corporation Commission. **SB 365** would remove this prohibition. Further details are explained in her written testimony.

There being no further conferees to come before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 365**. Chairman Morris requested that Legislative Post Audit come back to the committee with language for **SB 365** regarding the concerns the committee had regarding authorization limits when looking at specific areas.

The Chairman turned the committee's attention to discussion regarding possibly hiring an attorney to represent the Legislature in the Shawnee County Judge Terry Bullock's Memorandum Decision and Preliminary Order on school district funding. Senator Buntun moved, with a second by Senator Jackson, to authorize a letter be written requesting that the Legislative Coordinating Council consider authorizing up to \$100,000 within the existing agency budget, so the Legislative Branch could retain legal counsel, or other experts and consultants, to ensure that the Legislature's perspective is considered as part of the school finance proceedings. (Attachment 3) Committee questions and discussion followed. Motion carried by a show of hands with 6 in favor and 3 opposed to the motion.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE at 10:30 a.m. on February 3, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2004.