

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barbara Allen at 10:35 A.M. on February 16, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present. Senator Jordan - excused

Committee staff present:

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Nancy Kirkwood, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Taddiken
Rachel Rubin, Las Animas, Johnson County Landfill
Charles Benjamin, Sierra Club
Colonel King, Adjutant General's Office

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on:

SB 256 - Income tax exemption for amounts received for recruitment and student loan repayments by members of military

Senator Taddiken, recognized by Chairperson Allen, appeared before the Committee as a proponent of **SB 256**. The bill relates to members of the military, including the Kansas Air National Guard, being required to pay income tax on student loan repayments, and sign-up and retention bonuses (Attachment 1).

Colonel King, appearing on behalf of Major General Tod Bunting, gave testimony in support of **SB 256**. Major Bunting's testimony stated **SB 256** shows the commitment of the legislature to recognize guardsmen, and to provide them financial assistance in the form of tax relief for funds received as an incentive to enlist, or re-enlist, or to repay student loans. Colonel King stated he was speaking on behalf of the National Guard portion of **SB 256** as it stands now (Attachment 2).

The Chair requested KDOR furnish the Committee information on how other states handle this issue; particularly, exempting military bonuses and student loan payments. She stated her desire to work **SB 256** tomorrow, if the information and fiscal note are available. However, the Committee would have the option to work the bill on Monday.

There being no others wishing to testify on **SB 256**, Chairperson Allen closed the hearing.

SB 192 -an act concerning property taxation; relating to exemptions; renewable energy resources or technology

Rachel Rubin appeared before the Committee supporting **SB 192**. Ms. Rubin's testimony stated the initial purpose behind the enactment of 79-201 *Eleventh* was to foster investment in facilities and equipment utilizing renewable energy resources and technologies, in order to promote the use of renewable energy resources. Attached to the testimony was the support of EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP). LMOP also commented on the efforts of the high-Btu landfill gas project at the Johnson County Landfill located in Shawnee, Kansas. If uncontrolled, landfill gas can contribute to local smog and present health and safety hazards (Attachment 3).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee at 10:35 A.M. on February 16, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Testimony in support of **SB 192** was presented by Charles Benjamin, on behalf of the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club. Mr. Benjamin stated the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club has just launched a campaign to promote both energy efficiency and renewable energy, especially wind power, in Kansas (Attachment 4).

There being no others wishing to testify on the bill, Chairperson Allen closed the hearing.

Final action on:

SB 195 - Concerning the disposition of seized firearms

Chairperson Allen called for discussion and final action on **SB 195**, stating there had been no amendments offered. Senator Lee made a motion to pass SB 195 out favorably. Senator Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SB 209 - Transportation Development District Act, district sales tax

The Chair called for discussion and final action on **SB 209**. She explained the Committee had amended the bill and attempted to work the bill earlier. However, the Committee had raised several concerns, and no action was taken. Gary Anderson, who asked for introduction of the bill, subsequently worked with the revisor and agreed to an amendment to satisfy the concerns of the Committee. The Chair stated the change was to replace the word "estimate" with the word "maximum", allowing taxpayers to know their maximum exposure when signing petitions. Gordon Self explained the amendment clarifies that at the time of signing the petition and at the time of the public hearing, the financial information that is part of the petition and part of the public hearing would now reflect the "maximum" cost, not the "estimated" cost of the project. (Attachment 5)

Chairperson Allen called for a motion to adopt the balloon to **SB 209**. Senator Apple made a motion to adopt the proposed balloon. Senator Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried.

On the bill as amended, Senator Lee made a motion to pass the bill out favorably, as amended. Senator Bruce seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SB 158 - Property tax exemption for hay and cotton storage structures

Chairperson Allen called for discussion and final action on SB 158. Senator Lee made a motion to amend the bill by removing all reference to cotton storage structures. Senator Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried.

On SB 158, as amended, Senator Pine made a motion to pass the bill out of Committee favorably as amended. Senator Donovan seconded the motion. The motion carried

Further discussion

SB 13 - relating to confidentiality of information; disclosure

Chairperson Allen informed the Committee she had intended to work **SB 13** today. It was referred back to Committee from the Senate Committee of the Whole. Tuck Duncan, representing the Kansas Wine and Spirits Wholesalers Association, appeared before the Committee. He stated he had worked with KDOR, and KDOR and the liquor industry had come to an agreement regarding what information should be disclosed, and under what circumstances.

The Chair stated time did not allow the Committee to further discuss **SB 13** today. The Committee would hear three bills tomorrow, and then work **SB 13**.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2005