

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 11:05 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2005, in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Stephen L. Martino, Governor's nominee for Executive Director, Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission
Kristine A.K. McKechnie, Governor's nominee as a member of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Brungardt made committee announcements regarding the disseminated Committee Action Index furnished to each committee member. He briefly explained the limited activity currently in conference with the House of Representatives.

The Chairman called attention to the five sets of minutes, covering the meetings for March 10, 15, 16, 17, and 22, that had been delivered to each committee member for review and approval consideration.

Senator Reitz made a motion to approve the five sets of minutes as written, seconded by Senator Gilstrap, and the motion carried.

Chairman Brungardt noted that confirmation packets had been delivered to each committee member for their review and consideration on the confirmation of the Governor's nominees for the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission. He explained that originally the Governor had submitted three nominees, which the Committee received information on, but has since withdrawn one of the proposed nominations.

Chairman Brungardt called upon Stephen L. Martino, nominee as the Executive Director of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, to give an opening statement regarding his background and qualifications. Following Mr. Martino's brief opening statement, the Chairman opened the floor for questions or comments. (Attachment 1)

Committee questions concerned his lack of background in racing and gaming in Kansas, what qualifies him for a position with the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission; and more specifically in terms of being the Chief Executive Officer of an organization, what experience or qualifications Mr. Martino possesses to administer an office dealing with personnel. Mr. Martino responded that he had been following legislation that has been presented during the current legislative session, he has experience through his legal practice as an attorney, and has worked with various clients that have interests in gaming. Mr. Martino replied that in his past he had not directed a group as large as the 42-45 full-time equivalency positions of the Racing and Gaming Commission, but he did have experience managing people particularly when he worked on the staff of the House Democratic Leader and also directing staff members of the Governor's campaign.

Chairman Brungardt inquired if he was aware of any current controversies or issues before the Racing and Gaming Commission that will have to be settled or decided upon. Mr. Martino stated that he was not aware of any particular controversies, but did know there was an annual review coming up in the next two weeks of the Woodlands Track and then following three weeks later the annual review of the Wichita

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Greyhound Track. He said he would move quickly to involve himself and understand with a fair amount of particularity, any concerns the Racing Commission has relating to those two tracks.

Chairman Brungardt expressed the committee's appreciation for his attendance and participation at this confirmation hearing.

Chairman Brungardt called upon Ms. McKechnie to give opening remarks regarding her background and qualifications as a member of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission. She responded by sharing she had numerous experiences that qualified her to serve on the Gaming Commission including having worked as a city administrator, in private industry, and in education involving various supervisory positions and budgetary work. (Attachment 2)

Following brief committee questions, the Chairman expressed the committee's appreciation for Ms. McKechnie's attendance and participation in the confirmation hearing.

Senator Hensley made a motion to move the confirmation of Stephen Martino to be the Executive Director of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, seconded by Senator Vratil, and the motion carried.

Senator Hensley made a motion to move to the full Senate the confirmation of Kristine McKechnie to be a member of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, seconded by Senator Gilstrap, and the motion carried.

Chairman Brungardt asked the committee members if there was any other business the committee wished to consider before adjournment.

Senator Vratil stated that the committee held a hearing last week on **SB 299** regarding single strength beer proposal and the authorization of same in Kansas. He asked if it was appropriate he would like to make a motion regarding **SB 299**. Chairman Brungardt said he would entertain a motion on the bill.

Senator Vratil made a motion to recommend **SB 299** favorably for passage, seconded by Senator O'Connor, and the motion carried.

Senator Brownlee requested her "no" vote be recorded on the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. Any further meetings are upon call of the Chair.