

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Arlen Siegfroid at 1:30 P.M. on March 7, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Nile Dillmore- excused  
Representative Judy Morrison- excused

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Carol Doel, Committee Assistant

Conferees:

Representative Forrest Knox  
Sister Therese Bangert , Kansas Catholic Conference  
Debra Stern, Kansas Hospital Association  
Dawn Lewis, Concerned Citizen

The Chair opened the floor for bill introductions. There were none.

Chairman Siegfroid entertained a motion for approval of the minutes from March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Representative Olson moved the minutes of March 5<sup>th</sup> be approved as read with a second by Representative Peterson. Motion passed.

The Chair opened the floor for public hearing on **HB 2341** - Disposition of fetal remains act.

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor, gave an explanation of the bill.

Dawn Lewis, a concerned citizen, presented testimony in favor of **HB 2341**. Ms. Lewis related a personal experience of losing a baby still in the womb, and not having the privilege of knowing the method of disposal of the remains following her D&E surgery. Ms. Lewis wished to have had the availability of counseling for her grief as well as be able to have buried her child. (Attachment 1)

Deborah Stern, RN., JD, Vice President Clinical Services/Legal Counsel for the Kansas Hospital Association, addressed the Committee as a neutral to **HB 2341**. Ms. Stern stated that after surveying hospitals, it was found they already have policies in place which specifically address the disposition of tissue and fetal remains. The Kansas Hospital Association recommends that each facility provide information on the options available to the mother. The KHA also feels that counseling should not be mandated, but offered to the mother on a case-by-case basis. (Attachment 2)

No other person wished to speak to the bill and the hearing on **HB 2341** was closed.

Chairman Siegfroid opened the floor for public hearing on **HB 2029** - Concerning correctional facilities; relating to construction by private companies.

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor, explained the bill.

Representative Forrest Knox addressed the Committee supporting **HB 2029** stating that the bill is the culmination of many years' efforts and is the work of many people. The bill includes the House and Senate amendments made to last years' bill **HB 2688**. Representative Knox stated that the bill lays down the framework that will enable Kansas to start to move down the road in a very deliberative and conservative manner. It does not compel any action, but allows the Secretary of Corrections another option. He asked for Committee support on **HB 2029** which gives the State of Kansas better options for dealing with the ever expanding need for prison beds. (Attachment 3)

Representative Knox also provided information for Committee review on *Facts about the Construction and*

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 P.M. on March 7, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

*Operation of a Private Prison in Kansas (Attachment 4), Advantages of Private Contract Prisons, (Attachment 5), History of Prison Privatization Actions and Legislation in Kansas, (Attachment 6), Report of the Attorney General's Task Force on Crime and Sentencing Committee on Alternative Incarceration Options, as presented to Attorney General Phill Kline (Attachment 7); Knox Tours Private Prison (Attachment 8), as well as varied information regarding **HB 2688** which was the 2006 bill. (Attachment 9)*

There were no other proponents of **HB 2029**, and Chairman Siegfroid recognized Sister Bangert of the Kansas Catholic Conference who spoke on behalf of the Kansas Catholic Conference in opposition to the bill.

Sister Bangert related that the bishops question whether private, for-profit corporations can effectively run prisons. They opine that profit motives may lead to reduced efforts to change behaviors, treat substance abuse, and offer skills necessary for reintegration in the community. (Attachment 10) Sister Bangert also included a copy of a statement by the Catholic Bishops relating to their strong opposition to private prisons. (Attachment 11)

Written testimony in opposition to **HB 2029** was submitted by Roger Werholz, Secretary Kansas Department of Corrections. (Attachment 12)

No other person wished to speak to the bill and the Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2029**.

Chairman Siegfroid appointed a conference committee of Representative Knox, Chair; Representative Bowers, Representative Hawk, and Representative McCray-Miller on **HB 2412** - Concerning children and minors; relating to minors' access to alcohol or cereal malt beverages.

With no further business before the Committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting.