

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 January 31, 2008, in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Ruiz - Excused  
Representative Donohoe - Excused

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Jeannie Dillon, Committee Assistant

Conferees:

Representative Bill Otto  
Representative Gary Hazlett  
Mary Vanhooser  
Sherrie Lovell  
Nancy Jensen  
Diane Purcell  
Holly Turner

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chair opened the meeting by requesting bill introductions. Representative Mike Peterson requested a bill on a criminal statute regarding crimes and punishment. The Chairman seconded the motion; the bill was accepted.

The Chair opened the meeting for the public hearing on HB 2003 - Exception allowing day care homes to have double the amount of children licensed for during limited time periods before and after school, and SB2053 - Licensure of child care facilities by cities, counties and school districts. He explained that the Committee would hear HB 2003 and HB 2053 simultaneously because we have conferees on both sides that would like to speak to both bills.

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research, explained both bills to the Committee. Ms. Sparks spoke first to HB 2003. She stated the bill would allow day care facilities before and after school to exceed the statutory limitation on the number of children that are in their care as long as those children are school age. They would also be exempted up to double what the law allows for inclement weather when school is closed. This would only apply to the school year.

Ms. Sparks spoke to HB 2053 and stated that this bill states that any governing body city, county or school district may opt to license child care facilities within its geographic boundaries in lieu of the Department of Health and Environment.

Chairman Siegfroid recognized Representative Otto who addressed the Committee in support of HB 2003. He stated that this bill would help latch-key kids and would provide a place for them to go before and after school by doubling the number of school aged children in a day care facility. (Attachment 1) Representative Otto gave testimony in favor of HB 2053 and asked the Committee to consider allowing local units of government to license the facilities, regulate these facilities and run these facilities. He further opined that the Department of Health and Environment who regulates these facilities is unbendable given emergency circumstances. (Attachment 2) He also submitted a possible amended version of the bill. (Attachment 3)

After answering all questions by the Committee, the Chairman thanked Representative Otto for his

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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testimony.

Representative Hazlett addressed the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2003** and **HB 2053**. He stated that the bill would alleviate the problems and would be a common sense approach for both providers and the parents of school aged children. (Attachment 4) Mr. Hazlett related some of his experiences dealing with KDHE in the past several years concerning day care and stated his support of **HB 2053**. (Attachment 5).

After answering all questions asked by the Committee, the Chairman thanked Representative Hazlett for his time.

Mary Vahhooser came before the Committee in support of **HB 2003**. She stated that this bill will benefit child care providers in many ways. It would allow some flexibility in mornings and afternoons. It would benefit children in our state by allowing more families to keep their children in the same child care setting as their siblings. She stated that although the bill sounds like it might be adding a lot of children to day care homes during a few hours, in actuality it would allow only a few more children over the age of 5 for a few hours and that 3 additional school-age children would be the maximum number that any child care provider could add. (Attachment 6)

Sherrie Lovell came before the Committee in support of **HB2003** and **HB 2053** and stated her concern regarding SRS and KDHE and their regulation of day care in Kansas. She gave testimony regarding her experiences with the above mentioned agencies. (Attachment 7).

The City of Wichita was represented by Nancy Jensen with the Child Care Inspector Program. Ms. Jensen opposes **HB 2053**. She stated that although the City of Wichita supports this concept, the city also recognizes the impact of this bill on the regulatory process, childcare facilities and the families with children in out-of-home care. (Attachment 8) Ms. Jensen also submitted the Annual Performance Measures Statistics to the Committee. (Attachment 9)

The Chairman welcomed Diane Purcell, Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children. In her opposition to **HB 2053**, Ms. Purcell stated that this exemption would not benefit children. She stated that over the years she had seen teachers in a licensed program with appropriate staff to child ratios struggle to provide appropriate care and activities for a group of children because one or more of the children were not having a good day. Ms. Purcell stated that she believes that to double the numbers in a child care center would be unthinkable. (Attachment 10)

Holly Turner, Director of Children's Learning Center, Inc., gave testimony in opposition to **HB 2003**. Ms. Turner stated that an exception should not be allowed to care for up to double the number of children at any time. She said that increasing ratios even for a short time, overlooks the basic needs of children and creates a highly stressful work environment for caregivers. (Attachment 11)

Due to time restrictions the Chair asked Christine Ross-Baze, Director of Child Care Licensing and Regulations, if she would be willing to return another time to give her testimony. Ms. Ross-Baze agreed to return.

Written testimony was also submitted in opposition to **HB 2003** or **HB 2053** from the following conferees:

Mark Desetti, the Kansas National Education Association opposition to **HB 2053** (Attachment 12)

Deb Crowl, Administrator for Emporia Child Care **HB 2003** and **HB 2053** (Attachment 13.)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.