

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Barnett at 1:30 P.M. on January 24, 2008 in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sara Zafar, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Jan Lunn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Kathy Damron, President, Strategic Communications of Kansas
Mark Stafford, General Counsel, Kansas Board of Healing Arts
Richard Morrissey, Interim Director, Division of Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others attending:

In addition to the attached list, there were approximately nine other individuals attending.

The Chairman called for bill introductions.

Kathy Damron, President, Strategic Communications of Kansas, representing Sanofi-Pasteur who manufactures various vaccines, requested the introduction of a bill that includes educational information about meningococcal meningitis disease and its vaccine if, at the beginning of a school year, a board of education for a local school district provides information on immunizations, infectious disease, medications, or other school health issues to parents and guardians of students in grades six (6) through twelve (12). Senator Brungardt moved the introduction, seconded by Senator Wagle. The motion carried. (See Attachment 1)

Mark Stafford, General Counsel of the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, requested the introduction of a bill to define the term "surgery" to include surgical processes and services used solely for aesthetic purposes as being within the practice of medicine and surgery and therefore, licensure and competence are required. To prevent the definition from conflicting with other statutes, he requested amendment to K.S.A. 65-2872 to clarify that the definition excludes lawful services by a licensed electrologist, permanent color technician, or tattoo artist. Senator Vicki Schmidt moved the introduction; Senator Wagle seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Attachment 2)

Senator James Barnett requested the introduction of a bill to require the Kansas Health Policy Authority study obesity as a disease; to evaluate surgical risks, benefits and costs; to evaluate patient criteria for surgical intervention; to evaluate surgeon requirements for performing surgery; and to evaluate potential insurance coverage for weight-loss surgical procedures. The Kansas Health Policy Authority will report back to the Committee on Health Policy Oversight on or before November 1, 2008. Senator Vicki Schmidt moved the introduction; Senator Brungardt seconded. The motion carried.

Follow-Up Information:

Chairman Barnett called committee member attention to a handout (Attachment 3) from U. S. Attorney Eric F. Melgren addressed to Senator Wagle regarding a question raised related to a delay of action by the Board of Healing Arts and interaction with the United States Department of Justice. Senator Wagle added that discussion would continue within the Senate Health Care Strategies Committee.

Informational Briefing on Emergency Services as They Relate to Public Health Preparedness

Chairman Barnett introduced Richard Morrissey, Interim Director of the Division of Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment who spoke regarding the recent reports published by the "Trust for

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 P.M. on January 24, 2008 in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

America's Health (TFAH) Report on Public Health Preparedness." Mr. Morrissey, in his testimony (See Attachment 4) clarified that the focus of the report deals with emergency preparedness more than emergency services, although relational areas and overlap do exist. Mr. Morrissey delivered a clear, detailed report of all ten indicators included within the TFAH report including criteria in compliance and those determined to be out of compliance by TFAH.

Questions by Senators Schmidt and Barnett were heard related to KDHE's scoring projections for next year's TFAH report, and differences in the KDHE analysis as opposed to media reports and whether the media had requested response from KDHE. Mr. Morrissey responded that KDHE is prepared and will score higher in 2008. Mr. Morrissey reported that KDHE did issue a Press Release following media release of the TFAH report.

Senator Barnett adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2008.