

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 a.m. on March 4, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Senator Jean Schodorf
Senator Steve Abrams
Representative Peggy Mast
Representative Melody Miller
Jim Graham, President, Kansas Council on Economic Education
April Holman, Kansas Action for Children
Michelle Kaberline, Financial Literacy Coordinator, Kansas State Treasurer's Office
Senator Olatha Faust-Goudeau (written testimony)
Haley DaVee, Kansas Credit Union Association (written testimony)
Luke Bell, Kansas Association of Realtors (written testimony)
Robert L. Mackey, Executive Director, Housing and Credit Counseling (written testimony)
Mark Desetti, representing Kansas National Education Association/Kansas Association of School Boards
Carrie Greenwood, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
Christian Roberson, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
Andrew Crane, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
Thad Smith, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
Anne Marie Hughey, SKIL Resource Center
Julia Fonseca, Executive Director, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy

Chairman Aurand told Committee members for the purpose of chairing the House Education Committee on March 4, 2009, he would appoint Representative Geraldine Flaharty as the Chairperson.

SB 84 - School districts; personal financial literacy; statewide assessments

Acting Chairperson Flaharty then opened the hearing on **SB 84**.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commission, Kansas State Department of Education, provided Committee members with handout information concerning personal financial literacy including workshops and examples where personal financial literacy is addressed in the state standards for mathematics and history/government. (Attachment 1)

Senator Jean Schodorf spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 84**. Senator Schodorf told Committee members that **SB 84** would require that curriculum standards be implemented and appropriate questions be placed in the assessment. This would insure that all students would receive some kind of financial literacy instruction and in today's world, our young people need to learn about credit, interest, savings, payments, etc. and how to be responsible citizens. (Attachment 2)

Senator Steve Abrams spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 84**. Senator Abrams told Committee members there are two points that are crucial:

- The words "State Curriculum Standards" have a definite meaning to the members of the State Board of Education. State Curriculum Standards basically give the entire scope of what should be understood by someone who has taken that particular class. Establishing State Curriculum Standards for Personal Financial Literacy would not be an impossible, difficult or expensive task.
- Create the areas where Personal Financial Literacy may be taught. Most people might think embedding it in a math class is a natural, but some schools may want to embed parts of the Personal Financial Literacy in other classes such as Family and Consumer Science or others.

(Attachment 3)

Representative Peggy Mast spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 84**. Representative Mast told Committee members that it is extremely important to teach young people the dangers

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associated with too much debt and how easy it is to get into financial trouble by accepting too much credit. ([Attachment 4](#))

Representative Melody Miller spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 84**. Representative Miller told Committee members that there has never been a more crucial time to teach all youth the importance of financial education when looking at our current economic challenges. Today, most young people in high school do not have the basic knowledge to make adequate decisions concerning their economic affairs. The areas where students are having the most challenges are in financial planning and the simple knowledge of a budget. **SB 84** moves the state closer to assuring all students that graduate from accredited programs in Kansas will be financially literate. ([Attachment 5](#))

Jim Graham, President of Kansas Council on Economic Education, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 84**. Mr. Graham stated their group believed that **SB 84** is a definite improvement from the existing statute since it requires that financial literacy questions be included in the state's assessment tests. ([Attachment 6](#))

April Holman, Director of Economic Policy, Kansas Action for Children (KAC), spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 84**. Ms. Holman told Committee members that one of the most important ways families can be helped is through public policies that encourage the ownership of assets. She stated that for several years, KAC has worked on policies to promote asset development in Kansas and would consider personal financial literacy to be a vital part of asset development.

Ms. Holman also told Committee members that the additional direction provided by **SB 84** will strengthen the state personal financial education curriculum and the inclusion of questions on personal financial literacy on state assessments will ensure that the curriculum is put in place across the state. ([Attachment 7](#))

Michelle Kaberline, Financial Literacy Coordinator, State Treasurer's Office, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 84**. Ms. Kaberline told Committee members that now is a critical time for us to address financial literacy in a meaningful way. With our economy down and more and more families finding themselves in a vulnerable financial position, now is the time to educate them on the importance of being good money managers to save and invest in higher education. ([Attachment 8](#))

Written testimony was received from Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau as a proponent of **SB 84**. ([Attachment 9](#))

Written testimony was received from Haley DaVee, Director of State Legislative and Public Affairs, Kansas Credit Union Association, as a proponent of **SB 84**. ([Attachment 10](#))

Written testimony was received from Luke Bell, Vice-President of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Association of Realtors, as a proponent of **SB 84**. ([Attachment 11](#))

Written testimony was received from Robert Mackey, Executive Director, Housing and Credit Counseling, Inc., as a proponent of **SB 84**. ([Attachment 12](#))

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

Mark Desetti, representing Kansas National Education Association and Kansas Association of School Boards, spoke to Committee members in opposition of **SB 84**. Mr. Desetti told Committee members that the two organizations are in opposition of this bill not because they are opposed to financial literacy or the goal of the sponsors but because they do not believe this level of specificity is the job of the legislature. He further stated that the 'peanut' of the bill is in subsection (e), lines 15-17, that the legislature mandates putting questions on financial literacy into state assessments. When this happens, these questions become part of meeting AYP and a school will de-emphasize some other portion of the curriculum in order to ensure that all students learn these particular standards. Mr. Desetti also stated the bill represents a change in the state assessments in the years just prior to 2014 when 100% of students must demonstrate proficiency in both reading and mathematics. He stated that at a time when budgets are being cut and then frozen, passing on the cost of teacher training and materials acquisition for a new mandate is inappropriate. ([Attachment 13](#))

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Chairperson Flaharty then closed the hearing on **SB 84**.

SB 162 - Disability history and awareness.

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Chairperson Flaharty opened the hearing on **SB 162**.

Carrie Greenwood, Program Coordinator, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA), spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 162**. Ms. Greenwood told Committee members there are currently eleven states that have passed, or are in the process of creating, a bill similar to **SB 162**. The bills have been passed because of the passion and dedication of the youth who advocated for them. She stated that learning about the history and culture of the disability community are topics which are not currently addressed in history classes. The leaders are not mentioned and the treatment of long ago is not talked about. The disability rights movement is non-existent in current history classes. Ms. Greenwood told Committee members that in three years time, the KYEA has been able to educate over 1720 students in 25 schools. They have spoken about the very things this bill advocates for: disability awareness, disability history, and acceptance of differences. It is a plan for a better, more accepting society. (Attachment 14)

Christian Roberson, a student from Wichita Heights High School, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 162**. Mr. Roberson told Committee members he was testifying to ask legislators to provide recognition regarding disability history and awareness through an annual proclamation and also provide resources for instruction and activities at all levels of school including colleges and universities. He told Committee members that if other people knew about the struggles of having a disability, starting with the elementary level, there would be less bullying and more self-confidence in all people, with or without a disability. (Attachment 15)

Andrew Crane, a student from Wichita, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 162**. Mr. Crane told Committee members that the bill would help students who do not have disabilities understand the struggles that students with disabilities go through. (Attachment 16)

Thad Smith, an alumni from Kansas Youth Leadership Forum of 2007, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 162**. Mr. Smith told Committee members that the bill would provide information for those with disabilities and allow them the chance to learn the meaning of disability pride, the chance to claim their identity and the chance to express themselves freely. (Attachment 17)

Anne-Marie Hughey, Legislative and Policy Advocate for SKIL Resource Center and Executive Committee member, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA), spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **SB 162**. Ms. Hughey told Committee members that once disability history and awareness is taught in the school systems, it will have the same benefits that occurred when students began learning about the civil rights movement, its leaders, and information on some of the most successful and innovative Americans. She stated it is the same with young people with disabilities. Once they are given the information that many people with disabilities have come before them and achieved great things, they too may begin to believe they can do anything they put their mind to. (Attachment 18)

Written testimony was received from Julia Fonseca, Executive Director, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy, as a proponent of **SB 162**. (Attachment 19)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

Mark Desetti, representing Kansas National Education Association and Kansas Association of School Boards, spoke to Committee members in opposition of **SB 162**. Mr. Desetti stated the groups object to subsection (a) of **SB 162**. He stated that while the intent of the bill and the requirements under subsections (b) through (d) are all worthy and certainly possible, the mandate in subsection (a) is another issue entirely. He also stated even though the fiscal note is only \$3,000, this is the cost to the state but does not reflect the cost to the local school districts. He urged the Committee to, at the very least, delete subsection (a) from **SB 162**. (Attachment 20)

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Chairperson Flaharty then closed the hearing on **SB 162**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2009.