

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Vratil at 9:30 A.M. on March 2, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Barbara Allen- excused  
Greta Goodwin, arrived 10:12 a.m.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Helen Pedigo, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Karen Clowers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rachel Pirner, Attorney, Triplett, Woolf & Garretson, LLC  
Jerrad Webb  
Kyle Smith, Deputy Director, Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
Sandy Barnett, Executive Director, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence  
Bill Henry, Director of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Credit Union Association  
Leslie Kaufman, Executive Director, Kansas Cooperative Council  
Randy M. Hearrell, Kansas Judicial Council  
Mark Knackendoffel  
James W. Clark, Kansas Bar Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

The hearing on **HB 2665--In adoption proceedings, in termination of parental rights, court shall consider the best interest of the child** was opened.

Rachel Priner appeared as a proponent providing background on the bill and the differences between **HB 2665** and **SB 400** (Attachment 1).

Jerrad Webb spoke in support relating his family's personal experience and frustration in attempting adoption of his step-children (Attachment 2).

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **HB 2665** was closed.

The hearing on **HB 2626--Missing persons and unidentified persons and human remains, reporting and investigation of** was opened.

Kyle Smith spoke in support and provided background on the bill which would provide a revision of the missing persons statutes (Attachment 3).

Sandy Barnett, a proponent, reviewed the requested amendment that passed the House which concerned victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who may be fleeing for their safety (Attachment 4).

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **HB 2626** was closed.

The hearing on **HB 2704--Number of small claims procedures filings per year** was opened.

Bill Henry appeared as a proponent providing background on the bill (Attachment 5). He stated the Kansas Credit Union Association believes expanding access to the courts will be beneficial to the average citizen.

Leslie Kaufman spoke in support indicating that for several years members of the Kansas Cooperative Council have been interested in expanding the dollar amount and number of claims allowed per year for small claims (Attachment 6).

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Jim Clark appeared in opposition indicating plaintiffs with more than 10 claims are better served through the services of an attorney (Attachment 7). He went on to state that plaintiffs with more than 10 claims have a definite need for advice of counsel in managing accounts receivable, as well as collection of judgments awarded by the court.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **HB 2704** was closed.

The hearing on **HB 2607--Amendments to the Kansas uniform trust code** was opened.

Randy Hearrell appeared in support and provided background on the bill (Attachment 8). Mr. Hearrell then deferred to Mark Knackendoffel to report on the study conducted by the Judicial Council (Attachment 9).

Jim Clark spoke in support of the bill (No written testimony).

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **HB 2607** was closed.

The Chairman indicated it was his intention to work all of the bills heard this week on next Monday with the possible exception of **SB 400** and **HB 2665** since he was waiting for additional information from an attorney specializing in adoption law.

Senator Journey indicated as the primary sponsor of **SB 400**, and in light of the testimony received regarding **HB 2665** he would be willing for the committee to pass over **SB 400** and deal only with **HB 2665**.

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is March 6, 2006.