

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:05 A.M. on February 26, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Pat Colloton- excused
Barbara Craft- excused

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Dianne Rosell, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

HB 2606: Schools; special education; catastrophic aid, amount

Chairman Aurand told Committee members this bill came from the 2010 Commission recommendation and the Kansas State Department of Education had mentioned that over time, since implementation of the school finance act, the original \$25,000, that was put in place in terms of a baseline for catastrophic aid, had never been changed. And roughly, due to inflation this would be \$36,000 now. So the 2010 Commission forwarded this on to the Legislative Education Planning Committee (LEPC) and it came about in an LEPC bill.

Chairman Aurand referred to the computer printout regarding catastrophic state aid and told Committee members this handout provides the total cost per student eligible for catastrophic aid and total for each school district less \$25,000 as provided by law and the estimated state aid received at 75 percent of entitlement. (Attachment #1)

Representative Horst moved to amend the bill on line 24, page 1, to read "the base amount shall be \$30,000" instead of \$36,000. Representative Storm seconded the motion. After a discussion of the bill, the motion carried. A division was called with 10 - yes and 9 - no.

Representative Otto moved to table HB 2606. The motion was seconded by Representative Loganbill. The motion carried.

HB 2870: School districts; authorizing pay differential for certain teachers

Theresa Kiernan gave an explanation of HB 2870 and amendments to Committee members. (Attachments #2 and #3)

Chairman Aurand moved to amend the bill by striking the provision authorizing districts to pay employment incentives or retention bonuses since that authority already exists under KSA 72-8246. The motion was seconded by Representative Faber. After discussion by Committee members, the motion carried. A division was called and the vote was 13 - yes and 6 - no.

Representative Otto moved to amend the bill which reads "which pays a teacher who is endorsed" and include the wording "and teaching in" on line 4 of the proposed amendment. Chairman Aurand seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Aurand moved to add an amendment to convert the funding of the Mentor Teacher Program from a grant program to a weighting under the School Finance Law. The motion was seconded by Representative Storm. The motion carried.

Representative Otto moved to put a sunset of 2020 on the bonus section of the bill. Representative Horst seconded the bill. The motion failed.

Representative Rhoades moved to place a five year sunset (making it 2013) on the bonus section of the bill. Representative Horst seconded the bill. The motion failed.

Representative Storm moved that HB 2870 be passed favorably as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Wolf. The motion carried. Division was called with 10 members voting 'yes' and 9 members voting 'no.

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Audit, gave an overview illustrating the impact of Revenue Neutral Medicaid Replacement Aid on the Statewide special Education Funding Calculation. (Attachment #4)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2008.