

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 9:45 A.M. on March 23, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Theresa Kiernan, Senior Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Ann Mah
Reggie Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Eric Stafford, Assoc. Director of Government Affairs, Assoc. Gen. Contractors of Kansas
Sheila Frahm, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community Colleges Trustees
David Reist, President, Highland Community College and COP Chair
Richard Hoffman, Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges (written)
Joseph Glassman, Commissioner, Hays, Kansas (written)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger turned the committee's attention to discussion of:

HB 2246--Amendments to unclaimed property act allowing interest to be paid to certain claimants

Senator V. Schmidt moved, with a second by Senator Emler, to recommend HB 2246 favorable for passage. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

SB 365--Primary care safety net clinic capital loan guarantee act

A letter was distributed from Karla Finnell, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved regarding **SB 365** (Attachment 1).

Chairman Umbarger recognized Mike Hutfles who explained a balloon amendment regarding **SB 365** (Attachment 2).

Senator V. Schmidt moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to amend SB 365 to adopt Parts 1,2,4,5,6,7 and 8 of the balloon amendment, give the Revisor authorization to add Senate language, and regarding Part 3 of the balloon amendment authorize the Revisor to add loan language and work with Mr. Hutfles on Part No. 5. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator V. Schmidt moved, with a second by Senator Kelly, to recommend SB 365 favorable for passage as amended. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Chairman Umbarger opened the public hearing on:

HB 2556--Postsecondary technical education authority

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 9:45 A.M. on March 23, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Staff briefed the committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed the following conferees:

Representative Ann Mah testified in support of **HB 2556** (Attachment 3). Representative Mah explained that technical education keeps students in school and engaged. She noted that in the state of Oklahoma there are 520,000 students in technical schools. Representative Mah mentioned that **HB 2556** aligns technical standards and curricula statewide and establishes the postsecondary technical education authority under the auspice of the Kansas Board of Regents to be the point to contact to ensure that technical education is meeting the needs of industry and Kansans.

Reginald "Reggie" Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, testified in qualified support of **HB 2556** (Attachment 4). Mr. Robinson expressed his sincere appreciation and thanks to the members of the Kansas Technical College and School Commission for all of their hard work. He made note that the Kansas Board of Regents has long recognized the need to reform the career and technical education system. Mr. Robinson explained that from the Board's perspective, the formal, statutory creation of an Authority and the dual reporting structure of the Executive Director of the authority are not ideal, but they believe workable. He also mentioned that the creation of the Authority calls for substantial staffing capacity and support for the new function and without the resources necessary to adequately support the work. In closing, Mr. Robinson expressed concern about funding because it would come to the Kansas Board of Regents as a mandate.

Eric Stafford, Associated Director of Government Affairs, Associated General Contractors of Kansas, spoke in support of **HB 2556** (Attachment 5). Mr. Stafford mentioned that the Associated General Contractors of Kansas supports **HB 2556** and requests that the committee report it favorably for passage. He noted that Kansas desperately needs a coordinated, well-funded, technical education system that is responsive to the industries that will eventually be providing jobs to the students graduating from these programs.

Sheila Frahm, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, testified in opposition to **HB 2556** (Attachment 6). Ms. Frahm provided the following information:

- Senate Task Force on Higher Education, Kansas Board of Regents, January 31, 2007, Blake Flanders, Ph.D., Director of Career and Technical Education - historical background on Technical Schools and Colleges (Attachment 7)
- Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, 2006 Local Mill Levy (Attachment 8)
- Kansas Board of Regents, Technical Education Funding, requested by the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees (Attachment 9)

Ms. Frahm explained why Kansas community colleges do not endorse **HB 2556** as currently written with details in her written testimony. She mentioned that the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees recommends and asks for consideration of an amendment that would create a Vice President of Workforce Training, a focused advisory council to advise the Board of Regents and require a reporting mechanism back to the legislature to assure the ongoing success of workforce training for the future of the State of Kansas. Written details of why the community colleges support this amendment are in Ms. Frahm's written testimony. In closing, Ms. Frahm noted that neither plan will succeed without adequate funding. They believe the amendment provides an efficient alternative to the original bill while making the system accountable for the dollars spent.

David Reist, President, Highland Community College, testified in opposition to **HB 2556** (Attachment 10). Mr. Reist mentioned that the 19 community colleges agree with the Technical Commission's report on mission and funding. He noted that community colleges are asking that the Kansas Board of Regents be given resources to handle technical education within their existing structure - a Vice President for Workforce Training, an adequate staff and advisory board made up of individuals representing various occupational clusters from around the state. In closing Mr. Reist explained that the community colleges support the amendment.

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Written testimony was submitted by:

Richard Hoffman, President, Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges and Director of Kaw Area Tehcnical School (Attachment 11).

Joseph Glassman, Commissioner, Glassman Corporation, Hays, Kansas (Attachment 12)

Committee questions and discussion followed. There being no further conferees to appear before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **HB 2556**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2007.