

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:35 A.M. on March 26, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kristen Clarke Kellems, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cody Gorges, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jerry Sloan, Office of Judicial Administration
R. E. "Tuck" Duncan, representing the Judicial Professionals Chapter of Int'l Assn. Of
Administrative Professionals
Douglas Smith, on behalf of the Kansas Credit Attorneys Assn. and Kansas Collectors Assn.

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman turned the committee's attention to discussion of the following bills:

HB 2858--Fort Hays state university foundation, authorized investing agent

Senator Emler moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to amend provisions of SB 638 into HB 2858. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to recommend HB 2858 favorably for passage as amended. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

SB 626--An act establishing the veterans enhanced service delivery program

Staff distributed the following information to the committee:

- Memorandum from Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant Revisor, regarding a **Proposed Substitute for SB 626** (Attachment 1).
- **Senate Bill 626** Fiscal Impact (Attachment 2).

Senator Teichman moved, with a second by Senator Betts, to delete all the provisions of HB 2923, amend some provisions of SB 533, SB 680 and Proposed Senate Substitute for SB 626 into Senate Substitute for HB 2923, and recommend Senate Substitute for HB 2923 favorable for passage. Senator Morris explained that by this funding for the museum the Legislature is not assuming responsibility for any funding in the future and this should not be construed as legislative intent to further fund this museum. Nor should the museum be considered to be a state agency at any point. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Senator McGinn changed her vote to pass and explained that she has concern that this may start a precedent.

Senator Emler moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to request an interim study regarding the proper

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:30 A.M. on March 26, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

use of provisos. Motion carried on a voice vote.

SB 656 --Home and community based services, long-term care

Staff distributed and explained a balloon amendment (Attachment 3).

Senator Steineger moved, with a second by Senator McGinn, to adopt the balloon amendment on SB 656. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Teichman moved, with a second by Senator Goodwin, to recommend SB 656 favorable for passage as amended. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

HB 2968--Increase docket fees by \$9 to fund nonjudicial salary increases

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Jerry Sloan, Office of Judicial Administration, who testified in support of **HB 2968** (Attachment 4). Mr. Sloan explained the history of the Judicial Branch pay plan which was significantly changed in 2000 based on an initiative, the Nonjudicial Salary Initiative. He noted that since the implementation of the new pay plan, the salary adjustments provided have fallen short of the amount needed to remain competitive.

The Chairman recognized R. E. "Tuck" Duncan, representing the Judicial Professionals Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals, who testified as a proponent of **HB 2968** (Attachment 5). Mr. Duncan expressed the need regarding the importance of the positions and the need for competitive remuneration. He noted that the proposed state employee pay plan for classified personnel does not address these employees.

Chairman Umbarger acknowledged Douglas Smith, on behalf of the Kansas Credit Attorneys Association and the Kansas Collectors Association, Inc., who testified in opposition to **HB 2968** (Attachment 6). Mr. Smith explained that they oppose the funding mechanism (docket fees). He indicated that private parties already pay their share of the docket fees and since taxpayers, as a whole, benefit from the judicial system, they suggested increased compensation for non-judicial officers and court employees be funded by the State General Fund, in the same manner as other state employees.

Written testimony was submitted by:

Chief Judge Richard M. Smith, Sixth Judicial District, Legislative Chairman, KDJA (Attachment 7).

The Chairman closed the public hearing on **HB 2968**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for March 26, 2008, later in the day.