

Approved: 3-30-09

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jason Watkins at 1:35p.m. on March 12, 2009, in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Burroughs- excused

Committee staff present:

Jim Wilson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Cody Gorges, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jane Carter, Executive Director, Kansas Organization of State Employees

Others attending:

See attached list.

The hearing on **HB 2341 - Requiring state agencies to use moneys appropriated for employees salaries on state employee salaries** was opened by the chairman.

Jim Wilson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided the committee with an overview of the bill.

Jane Carter, Kansas Organization of State Employees (Attachments 1& 2) testified as a proponent of the bill. Often agencies have held open funded positions in order to use the allocated money for other uses. This bill would hold agencies accountable to the Legislature and ensure that FTE funded salaries are only used for the appropriated FTEs.

Representative Kelley pointed out that Osawatomie State Hospital has over 70 open positions and that some have been open for years. The bill would tighten up government spending.

Representative Watkins asked about shrinkage in agency budgets. The KOSE position is that core staffing levels should be maintained.

Representative DeGraaf stated that it appeared there is a conflict of interest in filling positions.

Representative Whitham did not agree with the basic premise of the bill.

There were no opponents to the bill.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 01:57 p.m.