

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Ryckman at 9:00 am on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Ron Highland – Excused
Representative Charles Macheers – Excused
Representative Jerry Lunn – Excused

Committee staff present:

Andy Chiamopoulos, Legislative Research Department
Dylan Dear, Legislative Research Department
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Kathy Holscher, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Melinda Gaul, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Andy Tompkins

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Introduction of Proposed Legislation

Representative Hutton made a motion to introduce legislation regarding energy conservation measures. Representative Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Representative Hutton made a motion to introduce legislation regarding accumulative paid leave with the KPERS Program. Representative Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Hearing on: SB161 — Vacation and discretionary policies of the boards of regents relating to university support staff.

Chairman Ryckman opened the hearing on **SB161**.

Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes, provided an overview of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). The bill would allow the Board of Regents to adopt policies authorizing the universities to provide leave time to university support staff. She noted that the bill passed in the Senate and there were no amendments.

Dr. Andy Tompkins, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, presented testimony as a proponent of the bill ([Attachment 2](#)). He stated that K.S.A. 70-715b applied to only classified employees, the addition of university support staff to the statute would grant the Board the authority to determine annual leave benefits in the same manner as when the positions were classified.

In response to questions from committee members, Jill Wolters stated that there were no known ramifications on the impact of the bill in regards to Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS). However, there could be issues for concern regarding the rules for unclassified accrual of sick and vacation leave benefits. Dr. Tompkins responded that there were no concerns expressed

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 am on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

regarding the change from classified to unclassified positions, and that this was voted on and approved of by classified employees.

Chairman Ryckman closed the hearing on the bill.

Hearing on: SB193 — Requiring a degree prospectus for postsecondary degree programs.

Chairman Ryckman opened the hearing on **SB 193**.

David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes, provided an overview of the bill ([Attachment 3](#)). The bill requires a degree prospectus for postsecondary degree programs. Institution may offer each graduate a \$100 incentive that complies with the process established by the institution in collection of the necessary information to comply with the provisions of the bill. He noted that if 75 percent of the students responded to the survey, the cost would be approximately \$3.2 million.

Dr. Andy Tompkins, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, provided testimony as a opponent of the bill ([Attachment 4](#)). Concern was expressed that implementation of the bill would require major investment of human capital and some specifics of the bill would be misleading to students and their parents. There are no provisions in the bill that the institutions would have input on the format and content, and the bill would create an inflated amount of debt that would have to be repaid.

Dr. Tompkins responded to questions from committee members. He stated that collecting data on housing costs would be based on estimates, as approximately 18 percent of the students live in dormitories, no housing provided at community colleges and only two technical colleges provide housing. He recommended collecting data that would include the cost of the program (tuition, fees and books), estimated dorm costs, if utilizing, and non-dorm resident costs. He noted that a mechanism is in place that identifies graduate to work statistics through the Department of Labor. The total cost to implement the provisions of the bill is approximately \$6.6 million. Of which, \$4.3 million would include the \$100 incentive and an estimated \$2.3 million for development and implementation. Discussion followed regarding the student loan application process, and a review of the website at Kansas State University, which includes such data as accessibility of a particular position, growth and average wage. Concern was expressed regarding the duplication of effort of this bill and resources that are currently be provided.

Chairman Ryckman closed the hearing on the bill.

Chairman Ryckman stated that the committee will meet to discuss information prior to the Veto Session on April 23, and April 24, if necessary.

Representative Schwartz made a motion to approve the committee minutes from March 9, March 10, March 11, March 12 and March 17, 2015. Representative Proehl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:35 a.m.