

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Ryckman at 9:00 am on Thursday, March 03, 2016, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Kathy Holscher, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
David Fye, Legislative Research Department  
Jennifer Ouellette, Legislative Research Department  
Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
J.G. Scott, Legislative Research Department  
Melinda Gaul, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative John Whitmer  
Eric Rucker, Assistant Secretary of the State  
Sarah Shipman, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration  
Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Opening remarks**

Chairman Ryckman called the meeting to order and reviewed the meeting agenda.

### **Bill introductions**

*Representative Macheers made a motion to introduce legislation regarding pensions. Representative Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

### **Hearing on: HB2573 — Live streaming of legislative meetings and the information network of Kansas.**

Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided a briefing on the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). The bill provides live audio streaming of legislative proceedings, by the director of Legislative Administrative Services (LAS), under the supervision of the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) in cooperation with the Information Network of Kansas (INK). In response to a question from a committee member, he stated that the Legislative Coordinating Committee would determine which committee rooms would have live streaming.

Chairman Ryckman opened the hearing on **HB 2573**.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 am on Thursday, March 03, 2016 in Room 112-N of the Capitol.

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Representative John Whitmer presented testimony as a proponent of the bill ([Attachment 2](#)) . A review of the amendments followed ([Attachment 3](#)) , These amendments included the language that the Director of Legislative Administrative Services and the board of the INK shall provide services determined to be necessary for the provision of live audio streaming and that the provisions shall be implemented within existing resources.

Representative John Whitmer responded to questions from committee members. It was suggested that legislative input should be a part of the process when determining the use of live streaming in four committee rooms. The INK Board would finance \$40,000 for a limited number of committee rooms, and decisions would be made in conjunction with the INK board. Appropriations may be required in the future for initial setup and equipment needs for additional committee rooms, he stated. Discussion followed regarding input by the legislature for implementing live streaming in committee rooms and recording of votes. Representative Whitmer stated that additional information will be provided regarding ownership control of the equipment.

Eric Rucker, Assistant Secretary of State and Chair of the INK Board of Directors, presented testimony as a proponent of the bill ([Attachment 4](#)) . He expressed support of Representative Whitmer's amendment and the continued support of the legislature's initiative to expand live streaming of legislative proceedings, as well as the opportunity to collaborate on this project. Regarding the control of equipment, this would be agreed upon by the INK board, LCC and LAS. He introduced Kathy Sachs, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Secretary of State. Ms. Sachs provided background information on INK, which receives funding from agencies for services, and currently provides audio streaming for both the House and Senate chambers, as well as the State of the State address. In response to questions from committee members, she stated that INK funding consists of eighty-five percent that goes to the private vendor and fifteen percent to the INK Board. It was noted that the building renovation budget did not include broadband, and the wiring for committee rooms will be reviewed, as this would need to be connected to the patch panel located in the basement of the Capitol Building. The bill does not prohibit video, but is primarily for audio live streaming, Ms. Sachs added.

Committee members received a copy of an Overview of Legislature's Proposed Audio Streaming Project, as prepared by Terri Clark, Legislative Director of Technical Services and Jim Miller, Legislative CITO ([Attachment 5](#)) .

Written testimony as a proponent of the bill was provided by the following: Rodger Woods, Americans for Prosperity ([Attachment 6](#)) ; Ashley All, Open Kansas Initiative ([Attachment 7](#)) ; Kent Cornish, Kansas Association of Broadcasters ([Attachment 8](#)) ; Doug Anstaett, Kansas Press Association ([Attachment 9](#)) ; and Representative Blake Carpenter ([Attachment 10](#)) .

Chairman Ryckman closed the hearing on the bill.

**Hearing on: HB2703 — Limiting the authority of state agencies to enter into indebtedness on behalf of the state; relating to the issuance of bonds by the Kansas development finance**

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 am on Thursday, March 03, 2016 in Room 112-N of the Capitol.

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### **authority.**

Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided a briefing on the bill ([Attachment 11](#)) . The bill limits the authority of state agencies to enter into indebtedness on behalf of the state; relating to the issuance of bonds by the Kansas Development Finance Authority (KDFA).

Chairman Ryckman opened the hearing on **HB 2703**.

Representative Hutton reviewed amendments to the bill ([Attachment 12](#)) and ([Attachment 13](#)) . The amendment includes language that states such indebtedness shall not include accounts payable and purchases using a credit card if such indebtedness is paid within 90 days of the date such indebtedness was entered into. The State Finance Council shall approve any gift, devise or bequest of real estate if such acquisition is in the best interest of the state. Nothing in this clause shall prevent a state agency from leasing real estate for a special event if such lease is for less than one year in duration. And, state agencies will not be prohibited from performing routine maintenance on state owned property, institution or facility The amendment to add a new section that creates a commission on public private partnership building projects was reviewed (See Attachment 13).

Representative Hutton responded to questions from committee members. Discussion followed regarding bonding authority for university research facilities. Further clarification was requested regarding KDFA exemption of legislative approval for bonding authority for university research facilities. It was noted that the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) was excluded from this bill as the bill does not address refinancing existing debts. It was suggested that this issue should be reviewed as modifications to debt should have a purview, Representative Hutton stated.

Sarah Shipman, Acting Secretary, Department of Administration, presented testimony in neutral position of the bill ([Attachment 14](#)) . She stated that the department is supportive of Representative Hutton's amendments. A review of the State Building Advisory Committee followed. The committee reviews and evaluates the bidding process for the selection of contractors on a monthly basis. Additional meetings would be anticipated with additional construction and improvement projects. The department stands ready to work with the Legislature to accomplish the goal of increased oversight of construction projects, she stated.

Sarah Shipman responded to questions from committee members. The concern was expressed regarding potential inflationary costs due to the delay of projects. Representative Hutton stated that the universities have determined that the \$25 million threshold was reasonable, and he added that the amendment removes the Kansas University Hospital as it operates autonomously. Discussion followed by committee members regarding projects that could be bid in segments as opposed to bidding an entire project.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, presented testimony as an opponent of the bill ([Attachment 15](#)) . He stated the importance of the university research facilities to attract and increase talent, to remain competitive, and access through innovation with limited state funding. In

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closing, he stated that the website is in the process of being updated, the importance of transparency and the value of the work done by commissions.

Written testimony was provided by the following proponent of the bill, Rodger Woods, Americans for Prosperity ([Attachment 16](#)) . Written testimony, as proponents of the bill, were Terry Humphrey, American Institute of Architects in Kansas ([Attachment 17](#)) and Mark Iammarino, Turner Construction Company ([Attachment 18](#)) . Written testimony in neutral position of the bill were from Wichita State University ([Attachment 19](#)) , Kansas Department of Transportation ([Attachment 20](#)) and Kansas State University ([Attachment 21](#)) .

Chairman Ryckman stated that the KDFA will be providing suggested language on the bill and he closed the hearing on **HB2703**.

Chairman Ryckman stated that the hearing on **HB 2503** has been rescheduled for March 7, 2016.

Meeting adjourned: 9:58 a.m.