

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE, LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Hutton at 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 19, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Erin Davis – Excused

Committee staff present:

Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department

Linda Herrick, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Steve Roberts, Kansas State Board of Education

Ken Willard, Governor's School Efficiency Task Force

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2326 — Contract negotiations for certain professional employees.

Chairperson Hutton opened the hearing. Chuck Reimer, Revisor of Statutes, gave an overview ([Attachment 1](#)).

Steve Roberts gave testimony ([Attachment 2](#)) noting his remarks are his own viewpoints even though he is a member of the Kansas State Board of Education. He supported the bill. There are situations in poorer schools; teaching positions requiring technical expertise; and for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) courses when it is difficult to get qualified teachers. Passing this bill would allow teachers who are not represented by a union in a collective bargaining agreement to negotiate their own salaries.

Ken Willard provided testimony in support ([Attachment 3](#)) and noted his comments are on his own behalf. He was also a member of the Governor's School Efficiency Task Force. This bill speaks directly to the findings of the task force and its recommendations. In visiting with school administrators across the state, the administrators feel they need more flexibility in making hiring and personnel assignment decisions, and to negotiate individualized teacher contracts.

Dave Trabert was unable to attend this meeting, but provided proponent written testimony ([Attachment 4](#)). Walt Chappell also provided proponent written testimony ([Attachment 5](#)).

Mark Tallman representing the Kansas Association of School Boards, not individual school board members, presented opponent testimony ([Attachment 6](#)). He also represents the Kansas National Education Association; United School Administrators of Kansas; and Kansas School Superintendents

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development at 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 19, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

Association.

Mr. Tallman indicated this is the fourth bill dealing with this subject during this legislative session. He noted a compromise was reached among parties, and was introduced as SB136 and HB2257. Therefore, he does not support the subject bill. He further stated that the individual teacher negotiations included in the bill would complicate the process, and it precludes negotiations on any topics other than salaries.

Written--only opponent testimony ([Attachment 7](#)) was provided by Lisa Ochs, President, American Federation of Teachers-Kansas.

The fiscal note for this bill indicates there would be no fiscal effect. The hearing on this bill was closed.

Discussion & action on:

HB2254 - Exempting certain general contractors from the roofing contractor registration act.

*Vice Chairperson Mason moved, seconded by Representative Ruiz, **HB2254** be passed.*

Vice Chairperson Mason moved, seconded by Representative Claeys, a substitute motion to amend the bill. ([Attachment 8](#)). The motion passed.

Representative Brunk moved, seconded by Representative Mason, to pass the bill as amended. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.