

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 Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Tietze – Excused

Representative John Alcala, appointed substitute member to the committee

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:

Justin McFarland, Deputy General Counsel, Kansas Department of Labor

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2357 — Department of labor; employment security; disqualification for benefits, administrative review, personnel carrying out act, filing of wage reports.

Chairperson Hutton opened the hearing on the bill. Chuck Reimer explained the bill.

Justin McFarland, Department of Labor, was the only person testifying. He furnished testimony ([Attachment 1](#)) as a proponent and explained this bill addresses a few issues within the Kansas Employment Security law:

--It ensures individuals do not fore go reasonable employment opportunities while receiving unemployment benefits.

--It closes a loophole that disqualifies individuals who begin substitute teaching while receive unemployment benefits.

--It clarifies the process to appeal a decision of the Kansas employment security board of review.

--It removes unconstitutional language that unduly restricts KDOL employees' abilities to participate in political activities.

--It requires all employers to file quarterly wage reports electronically.

The fiscal note indicates unemployed insurance benefit payments would increase by \$543,834 in both FY 2016 and FY2017. However, the Department of Labor estimates that the Employment Security Trust Fund can absorb the additional UI benefits without adjusting the current unemployment tax rates.

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 Commerce, Labor and Economic Development at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

Following questions, the hearing on this bill was closed.

Discussion & action on: HB2381 - Kansas department for children and families; eligibility requirements for public assistance.

Chuck Reimer, Revisor of Statutes, explained the bill to the Committee. Additional information was received from Melissa Ward, Department for Children and Families ([Attachment 2](#)).

Representative Couture-Lovelady moved, seconded by Representative Claeys, that this bill be passed favorably.

Representative Couture-Lovelady moved, seconded by Representative Claeys to amend the bill (Attachment 3). The motion passed.

Further discussion and action on this bill will be continued at tomorrow's meeting.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Representative Ruiz, seconded by Representative Frownfelter, and voted to approve the Committee minutes of: January 15, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, February 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 23. These minutes had been distributed to the members of the Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.