

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:30pm on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research Department  
Sue Mollenkamp, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department  
Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Hearing on: HB2234 — Requiring postsecondary institutions to adopt and implement a policy and plan to prohibit employees from using their official titles in certain publications.**

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **HB2234** and asked Nick Myers to give an overview of the bill. Mr. Myers answered questions from the committee.

Representative Virgil Peck spoke in favor of **HB2234** indicating his belief that the bill is simple and straightforward and explaining what the bill does and does not do. Representative Peck answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 1](#))

Representative Joe Seiwert supported **HB2234** giving his reasons for believing the bill would be helpful and offering a suggestion for an amendment to the bill. Representative Seiwert answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 2](#)) ([Attachment 3](#)) ([Attachment 4](#))

Thalia Fenton read testimony from Heath Weninger, a community college instructor. Mr. Weninger supports **HB2234** and expressed his concern that personal opinions expressed with the use of a school's title imply that the opinion is given as the thought of that institution. ([Attachment 5](#))

Mark Desetti offered opposition to **HB2234** stating it is appropriate for a professor to be known as a professor, giving examples that expressed his concerns and offering his opinion that the bill is unnecessary. Mr. Desetti answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 6](#))

Chairman Highland directed members to note neutral written testimony on **HB2234** submitted by Dr. Andy Tompkins, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents. ([Attachment 7](#))

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB2234**.

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**Hearing on: HB2174 — Tax credit for low income students scholarship program act amendments.**

The hearing on **HB2174** was opened by Chairman Highland. Nick Myers gave an overview of the bill. Mr. Myers answered questions from the committee.

Representative John Bradford supported **HB2174** explaining the origin of the bill as meetings held with the Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Department of Revenue to discuss ways to simplify implementation of the 2014 legislation providing tax credit scholarships for low-income students in low-performing schools. ([Attachment 8](#))

James Franko spoke in favor of **HB2174** commenting that the stakeholders in this system are interested in helping the system work smoothly and indicating the bill is largely a technical amendment to the 2014 legislation. Mr. Franko answered committee member questions. ([Attachment 9](#))

Bishop Wade Moore offered support for **HB2174** because he believes the program benefits students. Bishop Moore answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 10](#))

Kathy O'Hara supported the technical corrections outlined in **HB2174** as being helpful in facilitating the tax credit scholarship program. Ms. O'Hara answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 11](#))

The Chairman directed members to proponent written testimony on **HB2174** submitted by Erica Smith, attorney for the Institute for Justice. ([Attachment 12](#))

Tom Krebs stated his organization opposes **HB2174** because it opposes the concept of the tax credit scholarship program. Mr. Krebs answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 13](#))

The hearing on **HB2174** was closed.

**Hearing on: HB2203 — School district agreements for consolidation of administrative services.**

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **HB2203** and asked Tamera Lawrence to give an overview of the bill.

The Chairman directed members to note the proponent written testimony submitted by Mike O'Neal, CEO of the Kansas Chamber. ([Attachment 14](#))

Cheryl Semmel spoke as an opponent of **HB2203** but stated her organization is not strongly in opposition to the bill. Rather, they have questions about the necessity of it. ([Attachment 15](#))

Written testimony opposing **HB2203** was submitted by Craig Gabel, concerned citizen. ([Attachment](#)

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Tom Krebs offered neutral comments on **HB2203**. ([Attachment 17\)](#)

Neutral written testimony on **HB2203** was submitted by Dave Trabert, Kansas Policy Institute. ([Attachment 18\)](#)

The hearing on **HB2203** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet next on Thursday, February 19, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.