

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:30pm on Tuesday, March 17, 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:

Senator Forrest Knox
Julie Davis, concerned citizen
Tricia Stockebrand, concerned citizen
Gary Musselman, Executive Director, Kansas State High School Activities Association
William Burton, educator and activities director

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

The Chairman asked for a motion to accept committee minutes for February 18 through 23 and also the minutes for March 4. *Representative Barker moved and Representative Bradford seconded the minutes be accepted. The motion passed.*

Hearing on: SB60 — Substitute for SB 60 by Committee on Education - Authorizing participation by less than full-time students in activities regulated by Kansas state high school activities association.

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **Substitute for SB60**. Tamera Lawrence gave a briefing and answered questions from the committee.

Senator Forrest Knox spoke in favor of **Substitute for SB60** applauding the Senate Education Committee for their work on the bill and explaining that the bill provides an avenue that allows any student living in a school district to participate in the activities of that school district if the student abides by district rules. He noted that rural areas have few opportunities available outside the public school system for parents of students not enrolled in the public schools on a full-time basis. ([Attachment 1](#))

Julie Davis supported **Substitute for SB60** speaking of her family's experience as home educators with children who have participated in classes at the Winfield public schools. She indicated involvement under the Kansas High School Activities Association virtual school policy can be onerous in a rural area due to difficulties with internet service. ([Attachment 2](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

Tricia Stockebrand gave support for **Substitute for SB60** offering agreement that virtual school education can be onerous in a rural setting and giving information on the way the state of Iowa provides ways for all district students to participate in activities. ([Attachment 3](#))

Proponent conferees answered questions from committee members.

Written testimony was submitted in favor of **Substitute for SB60** by:

Abby Swygard, concerned citizen ([Attachment 4](#))

Collin Klein, concerned citizen ([Attachment 5](#))

Elisha Rasmussen, concerned citizen ([Attachment 6](#))

Jessica Cole, concerned citizen ([Attachment 7](#))

Les and Natasha Miller, concerned citizens ([Attachment 8](#))

Molly Cole, student ([Attachment 9](#))

Shalin Klein, concerned citizen ([Attachment 10](#))

Tracy Sealine, concerned citizen ([Attachment 11](#))

Wendy Phelan, concerned citizen ([Attachment 12](#))

Gary Musselman spoke in opposition to **Substitute for SB60** explaining how the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) functions, referring to the Association's virtual school policy on activity participation, and expressing concern that public school administrators would be placed in the difficult position of evaluating the academic rigor of a private student's academic program. He explained that home education organizations have been allowed by KSHSAA to compete with public schools in some activities and asked the committee to either not give their support to the bill or to put into the bill the elements of accountability that would be needed by public school administrators. ([Attachment 13](#)) ([Attachment 14](#))

Chairman Highland paused the hearing to announce **SB188 - Publication requirements under the Kansas uniform financial accounting and reporting act** would be removed from the committee agenda for Thursday, May 19, and the hearing on **SB93 - Career technical education performance-based funding requirements** would be delayed until that day.

Returning to the hearing, William Burton opposed **Substitute for SB60** expressing his concern that parents could use the bill as a way to allow a student to mature a year longer before entering high school in order to make the student more competitive in activities. ([Attachment 15](#))

Opponent conferees answered questions from the committee.

The hearing on **Substitute for SB60** was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet next on Wednesday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.