

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 12:29pm on Wednesday, May 06, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Valdenia Winn – Excused

Representative Louis Ruiz, appointed substitute member to the committee

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research Department

Sue Mollenkamp, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department

Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Shirley Morrow, Legislative Research Department

Mark Savoy, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Blake Flanders, Vice-President of Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents

Larry Moeder, Associate Vice-President for Student Life, Director of Admissions and Student Financial Assistance, Kansas State University

Linda Fund, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

Steve Kearney, representing the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges

Dave Trabert, Kansas Policy Institute

Rodger Woods, Americans for Prosperity

Senator Jeff Melcher

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB193 — Requiring a degree prospectus for postsecondary degree programs.

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **SB193** and asked Nick Myers to give an overview of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#))

Blake Flanders spoke in opposition to **SB193** giving support to the intent of the bill but expressing concerns about certain aspects of it. His concerns included finding the best way to access accurate data on graduate entrance into the workforce, considering the efficiency of maintaining the information at each individual institution rather than at the state level, and recognizing the effect compliance might have on community college and technical schools. Mr. Flanders expressed his desire to have institutions meet with parents and students as consumers of their services to determine the information that would be most helpful when creating and providing a prospectus. ([Attachment 2](#))

Larry Moeder opposed **SB193** indicating the information being required under the bill is already being provided to parents and students by post-secondary institutions. Included in his testimony were responses from state universities to questions asked about their current practices in providing this information. ([Attachment 3](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 12:29pm on Wednesday, May 06, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

Linda Fund gave opposition to **SB193** expressing the ways in which she feels the bill language does not aptly apply to community colleges and offering an estimation of the cost of compliance per community college. ([Attachment 4](#))

Steve Kearney represented Kansas Association of Technical Colleges in opposing **SB193**, providing examples of online information currently available. ([Attachment 5](#)) ([Attachment 6](#))

Opponent conferees answered questions from committee members.

Written testimony in opposition to **SB193** was submitted by Mary Sinclair, Mainstream Coalition ([Attachment 7](#)), and David Reist, President, Highland Community College ([Attachment 8](#)).

Dave Trabert supported **SB193** speaking to the increased availability of information under the requirements of the bill and commenting on the increase in intuition costs as compared to the increase in inflation and state funding of post-secondary education. ([Attachment 9](#))

Rodger Woods spoke in favor of **SB193** expressing that, while the information may currently be available, differences in website formats can make it difficult to compare education costs at the various schools. He feels the uniform requirements of the bill would eliminate this difficulty. ([Attachment 10](#))

Senator Jeff Melcher gave support for **SB193** discussing school debt and the need to help parents and students better understand the investment required to earn the degree being sought. He also expressed his difficulty in understanding why the Kansas Board of Regents moved from a neutral stance on the bill to opposing it. ([Attachment 11](#))

Proponent conferees answered questions from the committee.

The chairman closed the hearing on **SB193**.

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet again at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, in Room 112-N of the Capitol.