

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Brunk at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Valdenia Winn – Excused

Representative Louis Ruiz, appointed substitute member to the committee

Committee staff present:

Natalie Nelson, Legislative Research Department

Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department

Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Virgil Peck, Jr.

Representative Mark Rhoades

Representative Randy Garber

Representative Randy Powell

Representative Steven Brunk

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Bill introductions

Chairman Brunk called the meeting to order and asked for any bill introductions.

Representative Couture-Lovelady introduced a Lottery Modernization Bill. It was received without exception.

Representative Janice Pauls announced that the raffle subcommittee is going to meet immediately following this meeting today.

Hearing on: HB2075 — Establishing the capitol meditation room.

Chairman Brunk opened the hearing on **HB 2075**. Jason Long gave a briefing on the bill.

Representative Clayton asked how the room was decorated. Jason said that there was no provision in the bill for decor and the bill does not favor any group or religion.

Written testimony as a proponent of **HB 2075** was submitted by:

Representative Virgil Peck who indicated that it was a simple, straight-forward bill that will ensure that the Kansas Statehouse will always have a room where legislators, staff and visitors to the Capitol can find a place for quiet solitude. A place with a comfortable setting with no telephone or other distractions provides for a better atmosphere. ([Attachment 1](#))

Representative Marc Rhoades said that having a small room set aside for prayer and reflection for all

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Federal and State Affairs at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

Kansans and those traveling through the state, in the Capitol, would be consistent with our heritage and with our beliefs; that we are spiritual creatures, a collection and melting pot of spiritual people. ([Attachment 2](#))

Representative Randy Garber said that he had utilized this room several times and finds it to be a haven where he can retreat from the pressures of the moment and relax for a few minutes. ([Attachment 3](#))

Representative Randy Powell said that establishing a permanent Prayer and Meditation room puts action behind our stated intentions that prayer indeed does make a difference. ([Attachment 4](#))

Representative Steven Brunk said that the meditation room is part of the governor's allotted space that he has given to the people for prayer and meditation. It is important to know that the room does not single out any group or religion for preferential use, but is open to all. ([Attachment 5](#))

Arlen Seigfried said that there is a need to establish a room for legislators to use for reflection and quiet. He believes that the room belongs to the citizens of Kansas and should be a permanent part of the building.

Representative Hildabrand commented that the US capitol has a prayer room. It is not uncommon and is of long standing here.

Representative Pauls asked how long it has been since we had a prayer room. Jason said he would have to do some research on that.

Dave Depew, from the audience, said that there are prayer rooms in airports and hospitals and other places. He also said that about half the state capitals have a prayer room. He indicated that there is no government cost related to the prayer room.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2075**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 am.