

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Les Donovan at 9:30 am on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Terry Bruce – Excused

Committee staff present:

Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department

Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department

Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Gordon Self, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Judy Seitz, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, 40th District

Bob Voboril, Superintendent, Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wichita

James Franko, vice President/Policy Director, Kansas Policy Institute

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Possible bill introductions**

Chairperson Donovan requested the introduction of a bill on behalf of Senator Faust-Goudeau concerning a tax exemption for the hope ranch for women. *There being no objection from any member present, the Chair declared a motion to introduce the bill adopted by consensus.*

### **Approval of minutes**

*Senator Petersen made a motion to approve the minutes for January 15, 21, 27, 28, February 3, 5, 11, 17, 19 and 24 as written; seconded by Senator Lynn. Motion carried.*

### **Hearing on: SB280 — Sales tax authority for Thomas county for constructing or remodeling of a county jail, law enforcement center, courthouse or other county facility.**

Chairperson Donovan opened the hearing on **SB280**.

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer testified in favor of **SB280** stating that the Thomas County Board of Commissioners wants to increase the countywide retailers' sales tax an additional .5% for the purpose of financing the construction or remodeling of a courthouse, jail, law enforcement center facility or other county administrative facilities. ([Attachment 1](#))

*Senator Tyson made a motion to amend **SB280** by adding Bourbon County; seconded by Senator Abrams. Motion carried.*

*Senator Abrams made a motion to pass **SB280** out favorably as amended. Motion seconded by Senator*

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Assessment and Taxation at 9:30 am on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

Lynn. Motion carried.

**Hearing on: SB270 — Tax credit for low income students scholarship program act; eligible students.**

Chairperson Donovan opened the hearing on **SB270**, which would give a tax credit for low income students scholarships.

Bob Voboril testified in support of **SB270** stating that this bill would expand the pool of students that are eligible to participate in the education scholarship tax credit program to all students who qualify for free and reduced price lunches. ([Attachment 2](#)) He said that the tax credit is an excellent vehicle for addressing the challenges of the low-income student or at-risk groups because it does not distribute any government money.

Mr. Voboril took questions from the Committee.

James Franko spoke in support of **SB270** noting that nothing in this bill should be considered an expansion as the \$10,000,000 in available tax credits remains unchanged. ([Attachment 3](#)) He further stated that the bill simply recognizes that all "at-risk" children should be given the same opportunities under state law.

Richard Cram, Director, Policy and Research, Kansas Department of Revenue and Mr. Franko answered questions from the Committee.

Written testimony in support of **SB270** was submitted by:

Darlene Cornfield ([Attachment 4](#))

Mike O'Neal. ([Attachment 5](#))

Chair Donovan closed the hearing on **SB270**.

Senator Abrams made a motion that **SB270** be passed. out favorably. Motion seconded by Senator Lynn. The motion carried.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 18 to hear **SB259 - Computation of amount of personal property tax on motor vehicles.**