

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Julia Lynn at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department
Debbie Bartuccio, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department
Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Ann Murgia, Wyandotte County Commissioner
Luke Bell, General Counsel and Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Association of Realtors
Ed Jaskinia, on Behalf of T.A.L.K. (The Associated Landlords of Kansas)
Justin McFarland, Deputy General Counsel, Kansas Department of Labor

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing continuation on: SB84 — Cities; rehabilitation of abandoned property; definitions, other.

The hearing on **SB 84** was continued and the following conferees were recognized.

Representative Frownfelter introduced Ann Murgia, Wyandotte County Commissioner, who shared a map illustrating a number of properties in Wyandotte County that were more than four years delinquent in paying property tax. Commissioner Murgia spoke as a proponent of the bill. No written testimony other than the map was provided. ([Attachment 1](#))

Written-only testimony in opposition to the bill was provided by:

- John Todd, Wichita, Kansas ([Attachment 2](#))

Luke Bell, General Counsel and Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Association of Realtors, provided testimony neutral to the bill and offered a balloon amendment. ([Attachment 3](#))

Ed Jaskinia, on behalf of T.A.L.K. (The Associated Landlords of Kansas), provided testimony neutral to the bill with some reservations. ([Attachment 4](#))

At the conclusion of the question and answer session, Chairperson Lynn stated a Subcommittee would be formed to further evaluate the bill and provide a report to the Committee. She indicated the hearing on **SB 84** would remain open until the Committee receives the Subcommittee report.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Commerce at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

Presentation on:

Chairperson Lynn recognized Justin McFarland, Kansas Department of Labor who provided a labor market overview. ([Attachment 5](#)) The presentation covered:

- Recent Headlines
- Kansas Labor Market Information Services
- Kansas' December Labor Report

Mr. McFarland stated the Kansas Labor Report for December 2014 indicated the following:

- 2,300 private sector jobs were added over the month.
- November estimates were revised upward.
- Labor force increased by 3,531 individuals.
- The number of individuals receiving unemployment decreased by 9,000 over the year.

Mr. McFarland reported the December Kansas unemployment rate was 4.2%, the lowest rate since May 2008. It was also down from 4.9% in December 2013. In December 2014, there were 1,436,564 Kansans working, the highest number ever recorded. He indicated there were 31,329 more Kansans working in December 2014 than in December 2013. He stated the Kansas labor force participation rate is 97% of what it was in 2007, whereas the U.S. rate is just 95%.

Chairperson Lynn requested Mr. McFarland to provide historical information to the Committee concerning workforce levels by industry.

At the conclusion of the question and answer session, Chairperson Lynn adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2015.