

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 03, 2015, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Mark Savoy, Legislative Research Department
Lauren Douglass, Legislative Research Department
Erna Fabert, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

John Donley, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees
Dick Carter, Johnson County Community College
Blake Flanders, Ph.D., Kansas Board of Regents, V-P, Workforce Development

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Chairperson Abrams asked for a motion to approve the minutes previously sent to committee members for review.

Senator Pettey moved, Senator Arpke seconded, to approve the minutes of the January 13 and January 14, 2015 Joint House and Senate Education Committee meetings. Motion carried.

Chairperson Abrams then asked if there were any bill introductions. There were none.

Hearing on: SB93 — Career technical education performance-based funding requirements.

Chairperson Abrams opened the hearing on **SB93** and asked Jason Long, staff revisor, to review the bill for the Committee.

He then introduced John Donley who spoke in support, outlining that **SB93** amends the GED accelerator program from last year to include participation of Johnson County Community College in the pilot program, and clarifies that colleges do not have to teach GED and technical education courses concurrently for students to participate. He further indicated that the Kansas Board of Regents would propose to limit the program to Kansas residents only and the KACCT and KBOR will be working closely together on proper wording for the amendment. ([Attachment 1](#))

The chairperson then introduced Dick Carter who spoke in support concerning the issue of Johnson County Community College being included in the GED Accelerator program and about JCCC's new Accelerating Opportunities-Kansas, A-OK, program which combines GED instruction with technical instruction. ([Attachment 2](#))

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He then introduced Dr. Blake Flanders who also spoke in support of allowing JCCC to participate in the GED Accelerator program and bringing incentives to the technical and community colleges for those programs.

[\(Attachment 3\)](#)

After discussion, Chairperson Abrams pointed out that when **SB93** comes before the Committee for final action it would be appropriate to make an amendment to delete the strikethrough on page 1, lines 10 and 11 and delete italics, lines 17 - 20 and to leave the strikethrough on page 3.

Chairperson Abrams asked if there were other proponents, opponents or those who wished to present neutral testimony on this bill. There being no further conferees, he closed the hearing on **SB93**.

The chairperson then called for final action on **SB93**. *Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Melcher seconded, to restore page one of the bill to current law. Motion carried.*

*Senator Melcher moved, Senator Schmidt seconded, to recommend **SB93** as amended, favorably for passage. Motion carried.*

Possible action on bills previously heard SB2 — Authorizing school districts to offer multi-year contracts to teachers.

Chairperson Abrams announced that the Committee would not be discussing **SB2** today, but would be proceeding to discussion and possible final action on **SB32**.

Possible action on bills previously heard SB32 — Requiring school district and state department of education audits; creating the efficient operation of schools task force.

Chairperson Abrams called for discussion and possible final action on **SB32** and asked Jason Long, staff revisor, to give an overview of two proposed balloon amendments on the bill.

Senator Pettey moved, Senator Tyson seconded, to adopt the Abrams balloon amendment to increase the task force to 7 members by adding the ranking minority members of House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means. Motion carried. [\(Attachment 4\)](#)

The second balloon amendment was then presented to the Committee. *Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Arpke seconded, to adopt the Arpke balloon amendment to increase the task force to 7 members by adding two members to be appointed by the minority leaders of the house and senate, respectively, and to clarify the reconstitution of the task force every 3 years. Motion passed. [\(Attachment 5\)](#)*

It was pointed out that this second amendment would override the first amendment that was passed. The staff revisor, answering a question from a committee member, explained the terms reconstituted and reconvened.

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Also, in response to a question concerning the requirement of an audit of the State Department of Education, Senator Pettey asked whether other state departments are audited by LPA, whereby Mr. Frank, Legislative Post Auditor, responded that audits of this nature are not typically done on state agencies.

Senator Arpke moved, Senator Melcher seconded, to recommend SB32 as amended, favorably for passage.

After further discussion centering around the fiscal note, demand transfers and annual compliance audits, Senator Arpke withdrew his motion and Senator Melcher withdrew his second to recommend the bill for passage. Chairperson Abrams indicated that there will be further discussion concerning **SB32** at the February 4 committee meeting.

Possible action on bills previously heard SB33 — Creating the Kansas education standards study commission.

Chairperson Abrams called for discussion and possible final action on **SB33**. Jason Long, staff revisor, gave a brief overview of the bill. Several committee members expressed concern about this bill as it would seem more appropriate for the State Board of Education to develop education standards. Consensus opinion was that there are already other groups looking into these issues and this bill would just complicate those efforts.

Seeing no further desire to pursue action on **SB33**, the chairperson indicated that he will keep this bill on the agenda if any members wish to revisit this issue at a future date. There being no further business before the Committee, the chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.