

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, February 04, 2015, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Chairperson Abrams reminded committee members of the dinner on February 10th sponsored by Federico Consulting and Microsoft. He then proceeded to explain the handouts provided by Lexia and KSHSAA in response to questions asked at prior meetings.

[\(Attachment 1\)](#) [\(Attachment 2\)](#) [\(Attachment 3\)](#)

The chairperson then asked if there were any bill introductions. There were none.

Presentation on:

In response to questions from several senators on the Committee, Sharon Wenger gave a presentation on **SB71 - School districts; amending the supplemental general state aid calculation**. She indicated that this bill amends the method for computing supplemental general state aid (local option budget). [\(Attachment 4\)](#) Discussion centered around why the estimated amount of state aid the legislators voted on last session was so far below the actual amount that was needed in November and why legislators were not informed about the \$60 million difference between the amount budgeted and the actual expenditure.

Ms. Wenger responded that when legislators voted at the end of the 2014 session everything was based on estimates provided by the Department of Education, with input and oversight by the Division of Budget, Legislative Research and the Department of Revenue. Unfortunately, LOB state aid went up considerably and the legislature had expressed a desire to fully fund LOB state aid. Also, there were increases in capital outlay, as the law expanded uses for capital outlay last year, and bond and interest state aid is a demand transfer.

In response to further questioning, Ms. Wenger indicated that she would supply committee members with the requested information. Chairperson Abrams thanked Ms. Wenger for her presentation.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, February 04, 2015, 144-S of the Capitol.

Possible action on bills previously heard

Chairperson Abrams called for discussion and possible final action on **SB32 - Requiring school district and state department of education audits; creating the efficient operation of schools task force**. Jason Long, staff revisor, distributed and reviewed a balloon amendment which would call for six school districts to be audited beginning in school year 2016-2017, and in 2017-2018 and thereafter, 25% of all districts would be audited, with all districts having been audited by June 30, 2021. ([Attachment 5](#))

The rationalization behind the balloon was the fiscal note for every school having an audit every year and the fact that the districts would not have a chance to implement any changes in order to be in compliance by the following year. The six rural and suburban districts selected by the Task Force would serve as a pilot group and any needed modifications could be made from that sampling.

Additional discussion included whether there would be consequences for not providing audits, how often a district would be audited, and further details concerning demand transfers and the audit Legislative Post Audit would perform on the KSDE. *Senator Baumgardner moved, Senator Arpke seconded, to approve balloon amendment #1. Motion carried.*

A second balloon amendment was distributed which would eliminate an audit in any year in which the demand transfer from the state general fund to the school district compliance audit fund does not occur. ([Attachment 6](#)) *Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Pettey seconded, to adopt the balloon amendment. Motion failed.*

Discussion then turned to whether the State or the Districts would pay for the audits, or whether a compromise could be reached for 50/50 payments, whereby Chairperson Abrams asked the staff revisor to prepare a balloon amendment regarding this subject matter for presentation at a future meeting. Chairperson Abrams adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.