

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 17, 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:

Dave Trabert, Kansas Policy Institute  
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

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

*Senator Fitzgerald moved, Senator Arpke seconded, to approve the minutes of the January 22 and January 26, 2015 Senate Education Committee meetings. Motion carried.*

### **Possible action on bills previously heard SB60 — Participation by homeschooled students in activities regulated by the Kansas state high school activities association.**

Chairperson Abrams called for continuing discussion and possible final action on **SB60**. Jason Long, staff revisor, passed out a balloon amendment, labeled #7 and Senator Schmidt explained the amendment which deals with the issue of submission of proof of health insurance. ([Attachment 1](#))

Senators Melcher and Baumgardner both requested that the wording in the balloon amendment be changed to replace **as** with **if**, so the amendment would then read: ", and who submits proof of health insurance **if** required by the school district board of education."

*Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Pettey seconded, to change the word "as to if" in balloon amendment #7. Motion carried.*

*Senator Melcher moved, Senator Arpke seconded, to take the contents of the amendments in **SB60** and to create a substitute bill to be passed out favorably, as amended. Motion carried.*

### **Hearing on: SB188 — Publication requirements under the Kansas uniform financial accounting and reporting act.**

Chairperson Abrams opened the hearing on **SB188**. Jason Long, staff revisor, reported that this bill

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 144-S of the Capitol.

makes amendments to the Kansas Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Act by requiring school districts to publish a budget-at-a-glance document, which would also include an Employee Compensation Information document that details how the documents are to be published and requires the Department of Education to investigate complaints concerning nontransparency of budget documents and to issue a \$1,000 civil fine for each day there is noncompliance.

[\(Attachment 2\)](#)

Questions followed concerning the definition of a classroom teacher; whether titles will be listed for the top 10 salary positions; who will collect the fines and where the money will go; are board members included in the definition; and whether the budget at a glance portion of this bill already exists as Form 150.

The chairperson then introduced Dave Trabert, who spoke in support, stating that portions of this bill passed in 2013 but a review shows very few sites are in compliance therefore necessitating the inclusion of financial penalties. He further reported that much of the information that is posted does not line up with what open records requests reveal for public consumption. [\(Attachment 3\)](#)

Chairperson Abrams then introduced Mark Tallman, who spoke in opposition, citing factors of cost issues involved in assembling information, lack of clarity in how information is to be displayed and concerns about flexibility in assessing fines. He did agree, however, that while this information is being provided, it is not usually at the front of the district websites, but it can also be found on the State Department of Education website as a budget profile, Form 150. [\(Attachment 4\)](#)

Additional questions centered around the possibility of templates being provided to the districts for display of the requested information, thereby providing uniformity in the collection of data; whether this information is already provided elsewhere; would the costs for establishing websites be burdensome for smaller districts; have complaints been made about this information not being readily available; and whether mailing information to parents would be an alternative to setting up a website.

In response to a question from Senator Baumgardner, Mr. Tallman responded that there are 286 school districts and all but three belong to the KASB.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB188** was closed and the chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.