

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 11, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible action on bills previously heard SB323 — Creating the Jason Flatt act; requiring suicide prevention training for school district personnel.

Chairperson Abrams called for discussion and possible action on **SB323**. He invited Revisor Long to briefly summarize the bill for the Committee. ([Attachment 1](#)) The chairperson then asked if there were any questions for the revisor concerning the content of the bill. There were none.

Discussion followed concerning an answer to a previous question directed at the Kansas Board of Regents about the Jason Flatt Foundation. ([Attachment 2](#))

Revisor Long then distributed balloon amendment #1, dealing with the issue of boards of education requiring suicide awareness and prevention programming to all school staff. ([Attachment 3](#))

Senator Hensley moved, Senator Schmidt seconded, to adopt the balloon amendment, labeled as #1. After further discussion, the motion passed.

Discussion then centered around possible liability issues for school staff who have received the training required in **SB323**.

Senator Fitzgerald moved, Senator Baumgardner seconded, to propose an amendment to include Good Samaritan type language protecting school staff from liability.

Senator Fitzgerald withdrew his motion and Senator Baumgardner withdrew her second, after Revisor Long distributed balloon amendment #2 which deals with that issue. ([Attachment 4](#))

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Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Arpke seconded, to approve the balloon amendment, labeled as #2. Motion carried.

Discussion followed concerning who must approve the training materials, whether materials other than the Jason Flatt Foundation materials could be utilized, whether all training is provided online, how parents are to be notified of the availability of this training and why the crisis plan was added to the language of the amendment.

Senator Melcher moved, Senator Arpke seconded, to propose a conceptual amendment that would provide notification to parents of the availability of training for staff and parents in the area of suicide prevention. Motion carried.

Due to the number of amendments added, Senator Hensley moved, Senator Baumgardner seconded, to recommend a substitute bill for SB323 favorably for passage. Motion carried.

Possible action on bills previously heard SB388 — Requiring the state board of regents to adopt a policy on awarding credit hours based on CLEP test results.

Chairperson Abrams opened discussion on **SB388**. He called Revisor Long to the podium to explain the bill to the Committee. ([Attachment 5](#)) There were no questions directed to Revisor Long.

Chairperson Abrams then offered a balloon containing three amendments and recommended the amendments be addressed separately. ([Attachment 6](#))

The first amendment added wording to line 9 identifying scores as being in line with the American council on education. Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Baumgardner seconded, the approval of the first amendment in the balloon. Discussion followed concerning any possible role the American council on education has in the accrediting process for regents institutions. Senator Pyle felt that there are requirements being placed on CLEP students that are not placed on classroom students. Senator Schmidt withdrew her motion, Senator Baumgardner withdrew her second. The question was then referred to the Kansas Board of Regents for a report at the Monday, February 15, 2016 Committee meeting.

The second amendment in the balloon dealt with technical changes to lines 11 to 13 (1) of section 1, causing the amendment to read as follows: (1) The number of credit hours to be awarded shall be *at least equivalent to* the minimum number of credit hours *granted* for the *equivalent* course offered by the institution. Senator Baumgardner moved, Senator Pettey seconded, to approve the second amendment in the balloon. Motion carried.

The third amendment in the balloon added wording relating to not limiting credit hours beyond those accepted by the institution's regional accrediting agency. Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Pettey seconded, to approve the third amendment in the balloon. Motion carried.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 11, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

With no further business before the Committee, Chairperson Abrams adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

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