

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

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 SB342 — Creating the student online personal protection act.

Chairperson Abrams called for discussion and possible final action on **SB342**. Revisor Long presented a brief summary of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#)) The chairperson asked if there were any questions on the content of the bill. There were none. He then asked if there were any amendments to be offered.

After determining that the amendment proposed by the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) during their testimony had not been offered, *Senator Kerschen moved, Senator Pettey seconded, to adopt the following amendment: For the purposes of this act, the term "operator" shall not be construed to include any school district or school district employee acting on behalf of a school district employer. Motion carried.*

Senator Arpke moved, Senator Hensley seconded, to recommend SB342 as amended, favorably for passage. Motion carried.

Possible action on bills previously heard SB356 — Creating the school district bond project review board.

Chairperson Abrams then called for discussion and possible final action on **SB356**. Revisor Long presented a brief summary of the bill. ([Attachment 2](#)) The chairperson asked if there were any questions on the content of the bill. There were none.

Revisor Long then distributed and explained balloon amendment #1 dealing with changing the school district bond project review board to the joint committee on state building construction. ([Attachment 3](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Discussion followed on the makeup of the Committee, whether legislative personnel would have the expertise to serve on this Committee, whether this Committee would be appropriating funds or just approving projects, who would make the payments and concern over not defining direct instruction.

Chairperson Abrams moved, Senator Arpke seconded, to adopt balloon amendment #1. Motion carried.

Revisor Long then distributed and explained balloon amendment #2, dealing with establishing a bidding process for building projects. ([Attachment 4](#))

Discussion centered around current requirements for bids, negotiations between the bidders and the state, how the \$20,000 amount is interpreted, whether contracts are nullified if there are not at least two bidders, whether school districts are supportive of these proposals, whether these extra steps would add time to a project, and some technical issues on wording of the document.

Chairperson Abrams reminded the committee members that these guidelines apply only to state equalization funds and if a district wants to build without state funds, they can proceed without going through the mandated bidding process. This process is being put into place so the state can get oversight into monies spent.

Dale Dennis from the Kansas State Department of Education was asked to explain the procedure for bond projects. He stated that three steps are followed: (1) A bond issue must pass; (2) a building plan has to be provided; and, (3) the district then goes with the lowest, responsible, sealed bid.

Chairperson Abrams moved, with a second by Senator Arpke, to adopt balloon amendment #2. Motion carried.

Senator Baumgardner reported that she would be presenting another balloon amendment changing the makeup of the joint committee to include persons other than just legislators.

Chairperson Abrams announced that there would be continued discussion on **SB356** at the meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2016. He further notified committee members that the hearing on **SB444**, previously scheduled for February 18 has been rescheduled to March 7 and 8, due to a large number of conferees wishing to testify.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.