

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Jeff Melcher – Excused

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 SB444 — Creating a language assessment program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Chairperson Abrams granted Senator Schmidt a point of privilege so that she could introduce her shadow who is a foreign exchange student from Sweden.

Chairperson Abrams then opened discussion and possible final action on **SB444**. He called for Revisor Long to distribute a Substitute to **SB444** and had him give a brief summary of the substitute bill. ([Attachment 1](#))

The chairperson asked if there were any questions about the content of the proposed substitute. There were none. He then asked some of the stakeholders involved in the drafting of the Substitute bill to give summaries of their experience.

Ken Willard of the Kansas State Board of Education reported that there was unanimous agreement on the changes reflected in the document presented to the Committee. He further stated that all the stakeholders came with the idea to get the work done and he is very thankful for having had the opportunity to work with some really great people.

Chriz Dally, one of the bill's proponents, agreed that the process ended well and she is very happy with it.

Senator Baumgardner also emphasized that there was complete consensus at the meeting and one of the highlights was the addition of language assessment evaluators to represent deaf and hearing impaired

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parents and children at Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meetings.

Senator Schmidt was concerned about the length of time advisory committee members would serve. Revisor Long indicated that the Advisory Committee is charged to make recommendations by January, 2018, therefore the Committee would no longer be necessary after that date.

Discussion then followed about the need to provide a date upon which the Committee would sunset. Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Arpke seconded, a sunset date for the Committee of January, 2018. Motion carried.

Senator Arpke moved, Senator Baumgardner seconded, that the contents of **HB2441** be stricken and the language from the Substitute for **SB444** be inserted into **HB2441**. Motion carried.

Senator Arpke moved, Senator Baumgardner seconded, to recommend Senate Substitute for **HB2441** favorably for passage.

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

Chairperson Abrams opened discussion on **SB356**. Revisor Long reviewed the new proposed Baumgardner substitute which included answers to questions from previous discussions. ([Attachment 2](#))

Senator Schmidt indicated that she has another amendment to offer that would move the bill in a different direction more in line with the one adopted by the House Education Committee. This bill would prioritize projects and would limit capping of the fund, so there would be certainty for expenditures and there are six year rolling averages and caps. This substitute bill is modeled after **HB2486**.

Chairperson Abrams asked if there were any further questions about the Baumgardner amendment. There were none.

Senators Fitzgerald and Hensley indicated that they would like to see Senator Schmidt's plan go forward. Senator Pyle asked if this is an amendment to the Baumgardner substitute bill. Senator Schmidt responded that this would be a separate alternative substitute bill.

Revisor Long then passed out the Schmidt substitute for **SB356** and summarized the amendment for the Committee. ([Attachment 3](#))

Chairperson Abrams asked if there were questions concerning the new substitute motion. Senator Pyle asked for Historical Bond and Interest State aid figures for the last twelve years, to see why the figures for the last six years were picked. Ms. Douglass from Research indicated those figures would be

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supplied to committee members.

Other questions included whether there would still be priorities for who would receive funding, whether the cap would be automatic and how obligations prior to 2016 would be treated, and adding conflict of interest wording to the Baumgardner amendment if it is adopted.

There being no further questions, Chairperson Abrams asked the Committee to please study both amendments so that a final decision can be made at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.