

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ralph Ostmeyer at 10:30 am on Tuesday, February 02, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Joanna Dolan, Legislative Research Department
Connie Burns, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Matt Sterling, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Bob Corkins, Kansas Office of Administrative Hearings
John Milburn, Kansas Department of Administration
Joseph House, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services
Jason White, Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue Committee

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Introduction of Bills

Senator Holland requested four bill introductions and a Senate Concurrent Resolution:

- 1) Concerning state government ethics; dealing with lobbyists
- 2) concerning elections; dealing with campaign finance; relating to the KanCare program
- 3) concerning making applications to Governor appointed positions; subject to open records act
- 4) concerning governmental ethics; dealing with lobbying
- 5) A concurrent resolution relating to reapportionment of congressional districts, legislative districts and state board of education member districts (Senator Holland asked that this introduction be withdrawn as a committee bill)

There being no objection from any member present, the Chairman declared a motion to introduce the bills adopted by consensus.

SB 243 - State civil service board; transferred from the department of administration to the office of administrative hearings

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **SB 243**.

Staff provided an overview of the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Federal and State Affairs at 10:30 am on Tuesday, February 02, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Bob Corkins, Director, Kansas Office of Administrative Hearings, appeared before the committee as a proponent on the bill. ([Attachment 1](#)) The bill would transfer the State Civil Service Board (CSB) from the Department of Administration (DofA) to the Office of Administrative Hearings.(OAH) The Office of Administrative Hearings has performed the lions share of Kansas Civil Service Board functions under a contractual agreement with Depart of Administration. The only impact to OAH is in regards to the budget process. Rather than having our CSB services compensated through contractual fees, OAH will need to receive a direct legislative appropriation for these state costs.

John Milburn, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 2](#)) The bill would eliminate that back and forth of records and make the process more efficient for all parties involved. In addition, with adoption of these changes, the funds currently appropriated to the Department of Administration would be transferred to the Office Administrative Hearings.

Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing on **SB 243**.

SB 225 - Interstate compact for recognition of emergency personnel licensure

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **SB 225**.

Joseph (Joe) House, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, appeared before the committee as a proponent on the bill. ([Attachment 3](#)) The Board supports this important piece of legislation, which would allow better protection to one of their most valuable resources, our Kansas EMS providers; it realigns the focus on access to emergency patient care; and it reduces cost and confusion to our Kansas EMS providers who may otherwise need to maintain their licensure/certification in multiple jurisdictions.

The compact, as written, has already been enacted in Colorado and Texas (2 of 5 states that Kansas ambulance services responded to in 2015). All our remaining surrounding states qualify to enact this compact and have stated their desire to pursue passage during their respective legislative sessions. Our Board wishes to be within the first 10 states to enact in order to have a seat on the commission during the initial promulgation of rules. The Board feels that this ensures that Kansas voice is heard from the very beginning.

Jason White, Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue Committee, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 4](#)) The Compact will assist with the legal framework to allow for the protection of Kansas EMS personnel performing regular EMS functions but not in Kansas, but in response to these larger emergencies; and will also provide additional legal clarity for those EMS personnel who are providing services in Kansas from other nearby states when needed.

Rod Pace, Chair, Kansas Region VI EMS Council, provided written testimony in favor of the bill.

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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[\(Attachment 5\)](#) Support of the Compact will maintain a necessary, primary focus on patient care, and it stands to help reduce operational costs for many services, located both inside and outside the state of Kansas.

Kevin Flory, President, Kansas State Firefighters Association, (KSFFA) provided written testimony in favor of the bill. [\(Attachment 6\)](#) As emergency responders, they are often taken across boundaries into neighboring jurisdictions to give assistance, and sometimes for those border county departments, this means going into the neighboring states to give aid. KSFFA asked for passage of the bill to allow for clarification of our medical responders roles when going into a neighboring state for assistance.

Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing on **SB 225**.

The next meeting is scheduled February 3, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.