

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, March 08, 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  
Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

**Introduction of Bills**

Senator Ostmeyer requested a bill introduction concerning the Department of Commerce; relating to administrative cost recovery fees for department-administered community finance, economic development and tax incentive programs.

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

**HB 2442 - Limiting which government officials may receive information technology audit written reports**

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **HB 2442**

Staff provided an overview of the bill.

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Auditor, appeared before the committee as a proponent on the bill. [\(Attachment 1\)](#) The bill would remove the requirement to provide reports to the Governor and the chief information technology officers of all three branches of government. Reports would be provided to only the chief information technology officer of the branch of government to which the agency being audited belongs.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Federal and State Affairs at 10:30 am on Tuesday, March 08, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

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Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing on **HB 2442**.

### **HB 2536 - Amendments regarding accountant licensure**

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **HB 2536**

Staff provided an overview of the bill.

John Helms, CPA, Kansas Board of Accountancy, appeared before the committee as a proponent on the bill. ([Attachment 2](#)) The bill updates definitions and industry standards, removes outdated references that allowed certain certified public accountants to practice by notification, and makes other technical changes.

Marlee Carpenter presented Aron Dunn, CPA, and Chair of the Kansas Society of CPAs written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 3](#)) The public relies on protections, and they need to know that when they engage a professional for these attest services that the professional has the right degree of expertise, education, and regulatory oversight a combination only available from a CPA, operating within a CPA firm.

Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing on **HB 2536**.

### **HB 2516 - Asbestos control act, state licensing requirements and federal compliance**

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **HB 2516**.

Staff provided an overview of the bill.

John W. Mitchell, Director, Division of Environment, Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE), appeared before the committee as a proponent on the bill. ([Attachment 4](#)) The bill would remove the need for annual asbestos worker certifications through KDHE. Asbestos abatement companies will continue to be required to receive annual business licenses from KDHE, and must continue to verify that their workers are properly trained and have the course certificate of completion available for KDHE inspection. House Committee on Energy and Environment amended the bill that fees collected would be kept within the program area for funding the asbestos program.

Mark Schreiber, Vice President, Government Affairs, Westar Energy, provided written testimony as neutral on the bill. ([Attachment 5](#)) Since the bill was amended to move the fees associated with licensing and oversight of this regulated area from the air fee fund to the state general fund, Westar Energy respectfully switched their position from supportive to neutral.

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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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Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing on **HB 2516**.

### **HB 2567 - Reinstating resident tuition ad fees for certain military veterans and dependents**

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **HB 2567**

Staff provided an overview of the bill.

Lt. Col USMC, Retired, Evan Holt, Lawrence, Kansas, appeared in support of the bill. ([Attachment 6](#)) Current law, as written, allows non-Kansan veterans who served in Kansas as little as two (2) years to receive in-state benefits but not for those who were residents of Kansas prior to joining the military. . Mr. Holt believes the new bill, as proposed, allows all veterans who have ties to Kansas to return to Kansas and not be penalized for serving their country

Blake Flanders, Ph.D., President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, appeared before the committee as a proponent on the bill. ([Attachment 7](#)) The bill would reinstate the eligibility for resident tuition rates previously granted by the Legislature to certain military veterans and their families.

Wayne Bollig, Deputy Director, Veteran Services, Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 8](#)) **HB 2154** that was passed in the 2015 Legislative Session intent was to extend the benefit to additional veterans and dependents; this bill allows the school to retroactively reimburse Mr. Holt and any other veterans inadvertently impacted by the 2015 bill.

Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing on **HB 2567**.

The next meeting is scheduled March 9, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.