

Approved March 1, 1983  
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Pensions, Investments and Benefits

The meeting was called to order by Rep. Bob Ott at  
Chairperson

9:10 a.m. ~~p.m.~~ on February 24, 1983 in room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Rep. Whitaker

Committee staff present:  
Richard Ryan, Legislative Research  
Louis Chabira, Legislative Research  
Gordon Self, Revisor's Office

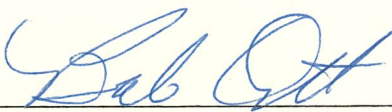
Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Ed Friesen, Kansas Retired Teachers Association, Wichita, Kansas  
Walter Johnson, Chairman of Legislative Committee, Kansas Association of  
Public Employees  
Casey Jones, Kansas State Firefighters Association  
Jim Snyder, Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association

Chairman Ott called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He turned the floor over to conferees on HB 2129. The first to appear was Mr. Ed Friesen, Kansas Retired Teachers Association, who appeared in opposition to the bill. Walter Johnson, speaking for himself as a retired public employee, appeared in opposition to the bill.

Chairman Ott then asked Rep. Laird to explain HB 2224. Rep. Laird then introduced conferees appearing in behalf of this bill: Mr. Walter Johnson, speaking for Kansas Association of Public Employees, appeared in favor of the bill. Casey Jones, Kansas State Firefighters Association, appeared in favor of the bill. Jim Snyder, Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association (See Attachment A) appeared in favor of the bill. Ed Friesen also appeared in favor of the bill. The conferees then answered questions from committee members and there was brief discussion of the bill.

Chairman Ott asked the Committee to approve the minutes of the February 22 meeting; Rep. Dyck moved that the minutes be approved, Rep. Meacham seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

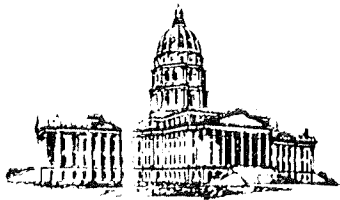
The committee was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The committee will meet on March 1 at 9:00, in Room 527-S.

  
Rep. Bob Ott, Chairman



STATE OF KANSAS

JOHN F. (JACK) SHRIVER  
REPRESENTATIVE, 79TH DISTRICT  
COWLEY COUNTY  
115 NO. B  
ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS 67005



TOPEKA

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
MEMBER WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES  
February 23, 1983

Representative Bob Ott, Chairman  
Pensions, Investments & Benefits Committee  
Capitol Building  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I have noted that HB 2129 is set for hearing in your committee. As a member of the first Pension & Investments Committee established in the House of Representatives and as a member of the Ways and Means Committee which received all pension and retirement bills prior to the establishment of the Pension, Investments & Benefits Committee, I have a continuing interest in the pension and retirement benefits provided public employees in the state of Kansas.

While I am not familiar with the background that leads to the bill's introduction, I might share some observations regarding the KPERS program. The number one consideration has always been to provide a soundly funded program. It has been an overriding concern that all benefits which are promised to and earned by the public employees who are members of the system are backed by real dollars rather than a mere promise.

It has been my observation that if anything, the KPERS system has been funded on a conservative basis, which is better than the opposite. The KPERS actuary, the Martin E. Segal Company, has been largely responsible for these practices through their recommendations. I have found them not only knowledgeable and highly professional in the technical aspect of retirement programs but extremely helpful and candid in providing recommendations and raising issues regarding the direction of our retirement system. Their technical expertise and wide experience has been utilized in the past through their employment by both the legislative and executive branches. They have assisted with many projects regarding employee benefits and retirement, including both the design and funding.

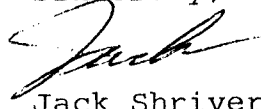
It would seem to be a wrong approach to provide by statute that such an organization must be terminated. If there is some concern regarding the technical correctness of any of their work, there are other approaches that might prove more beneficial. The budgetary authorization for the KPERS system to employ an outside consultant to "spot check" the reasonableness of the assumptions recommended by the Segal firm and the correctness of the data and procedures used in their evaluations might be an

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Mr. Bob Ott  
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alternative which would be reassuring, objective and beneficial.

I would also like to take this opportunity to comment on the role of the legislature in the process of providing pension benefits. It is not, and should not be, our role to manage the retirement system. We have defined the level of coverage and benefits and given the board of trustees the tools to get the job done. Our interest should be the bottom line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Shriver".

Jack Shriver

JS/rh

## EXPENSES PER FUNERAL IN KANSAS

\*\*\*\* These figures DO NOT include cemetery expenses consisting of the cemetery lot; opening and closing of grave; a grave liner or vault; marker for the grave; or rental on a tent and chairs. They also DO NOT include any cash advances such as for flowers, etc.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1981</u>
Automobile	\$ 92	\$101	\$115
Building	179	211	226
Debt Collection	20	19	36
Direct Funeral (1)	51	54	177
General (2)	93	109	177
Personnel	494	542	578
Promotional	49	51	56
Taxes	<u>71</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>98</u>
Sub-Total	1049	1158	1357
Average Casket Cost	<u>227</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>278</u>
TOTAL	\$1276	\$1416	\$1635

(1) Embalming supplies, Funerary supplies (cards, candles, memorial booklets), Funeral Trip Expense, and other Funeral Directing services.

(2) Insurance, Interest & Bank Charges, Dues & Subscriptions, Licenses, Laundry, Legal & Accounting Fees, Postage, Printing, Stationery, Telephone, and Travel Expenses.