

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR JOSEPH C. HARDER at
Chairperson

1:30 a.m./p.m. on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1984 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Mr. Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Ms. Avis Swartzman, Legislative Revisor's Office
Mrs. Millie Randell, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

SB 635 - An act concerning school districts; fixing the date for commencement of the school term (Morris, Vidricksen)

Proponents:

Senator Bill Morris, co-author
Ms. Cathy L. Kruzic, Travel and Tourism Director, Kansas Department of Economic Development
Ms. Myrna Preisner, Executive Director, Topeka Convention and Visitors Bureau

Opponents:

Dr. Jerry Schreiner, Executive Director, United School Administrators
Dr. Bill Curtis, Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards

Following a call to order by Chairman Joseph C. Harder, the Chairman recognized Senator Bill Morris, co-author of SB 635. Senator Morris explained the differences between SB 630 and SB 635 and then explained that the intent of SB 635 is to mandate a uniform commencement date for all elementary and secondary public schools in Kansas. This date, he said, would be the first weekday after Labor Day; and he cited economics, weather, and popularity as some of the reasons he supports the bill.

Ms. Cathy L. Kruzic testified in support of SB 635, and her testimony is found in Attachment 1.

Ms. Myrna Preisner testified that USD 501 had surveyed one thousand households of people whose children attend school in its district in order to get input for a school starting date. She reported that the results indicated over two-thirds of those persons surveyed preferred to have an opening date after Labor Day. The Board's response to its patrons is to implement a new starting date after Labor Day in USD 501 commencing with the fall, 1985 school term.

Dr. Jerry Schreiner testified that USA is opposed to SB 635 and said he felt the local boards are in the best position to determine the school starting date in their districts rather than to have the date mandated to them. He stated that the needs in different districts would make a difference in a board's determination for a starting date.

Dr. Bill Curtis agreed with the testimony of Dr. Schreiner in that determination of the commencement date of school should be left up to the local community. He said that most boards do involve the staff and parents in this decision. He further stated that this decision should not be influenced by the record-setting hot days of one summer.

The Chairman said the bill would be taken under advisement.

The Chairman asked the Committee if it wished to request that a resolution be drafted in order to give direction to the Kansas State High School Activities Association so that the activities it regulates become truly extra-curricular. Senator Bogina moved that the Committee introduce such a resolution. This motion was seconded by Senator Rehorn, and the motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
room 254-E, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1984

When the Chairman asked the Committee if it wished to act on SB 474, Senator Winter made a conceptual motion to strike the language contained in "(3)" on lines 0059 and 0060 and to renumber "(4)" on line 0060. This motion was seconded by Senator Angell. When the Chairman called for a show of hands to determine the vote, the Chairman broke a tie vote and ruled that the motion did not carry.

Senator Kerr then moved that SB 474 be recommended favorably for passage. This motion was seconded by Senator Parrish. However, at the request for a technical amendment by the Revisor of Statutes, Senator Kerr moved that the technical amendment as described by the Revisor be adopted. This was seconded by Senator Montgomery, and the amendment was adopted. When the Chairman referred the Committee's attention to the primary motion made by Senator Kerr, the motion carried.

Following Committee discussion regarding SB 469, the Chairman informed the Committee that a similar bill in the House had been recommended for interim study. When the Chairman asked the Committee's pleasure regarding SB 469, Senator Allen moved that SB 469 be reported adversely. This motion was seconded by Senator Kerr, and the motion carried.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 254-E DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 15, 1984

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Almeda Edwards	Ottawa	Bd USD #290 + Fr Co Farm Bureau
Keith Greenwood	McPherson, Ks.	Lions Club
Lou Paul	McPherson, Ks.	KNEA
Mary Ellen Simon	Topeka	Lg. of Women Veterans
Jennie Woxer	Rock	Farm Bureau
Bloris Woxer	Rock	Farm Bureau
Alex Miller	Winfield	Farm Bureau
Phil Miller		"
Wilton Bowman	Rock	"
Merle Hice	Topeka	RACC

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GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION
Bill Roseman	Winfield, Mo	Farm Bureau
David Dawkins	Clifton	USD #224
Bill Curtis	Topeka	KASB
Shelly McNaughton	Manhattan	KCN
Harold C. Pitts	Topeka	
Bill Nicks	Wichita	USA-259
Sharon Green	Topeka	Sen Daniels sec.
Mr. Mues	Lawrence	Sen Heinig
Dennis Denny	Lawrence	Sen Kan
Gene Schrein	Topeka	USA
Ellen Ombraun	Topeka	Mo. Action for Children
Pat A.	Topeka	KOED
Jacqueline Dakes	Yates Center	KASB

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Room 254-E

TESTIMONY

SB 635

POST LABOR DAY COMMENCEMENT

for the school term

Cathy L. Kruzic, Travel & Tourism Director
Kansas Department of Economic Development

February 15, 1984

Attachment 1

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I urge you to carefully consider Senate Bill 635 requiring that Kansas schools commence the day following the annual Labor Day holiday.

Understandably, there is a great deal of concern for mandating specifics such as school dates to individual school boards, however, I feel that there are certainly some valid arguments supporting this particular legislative request. The travel and tourism industry in the state of Kansas is currently the 4th largest industry, employing more than 42,000 people, and generating revenues of over \$1.5 billion dollars annually.

Traditionally, schools throughout the United States did not begin activities until following the annual Labor Day holiday and ended prior to Memorial Day weekend to allow families the opportunity to enjoy either or both of the unofficial opening and closing of the summer season. This allowed many families to take advantage of the opportunity to include an extra day in scheduling vacation activities on two of the most travelled holiday weekends of the year. However, the recent trend towards commencing the schools in mid-August has caused a considerable reduction in the economic impact of the travel industry due to the fact that families are unable to include this long weekend in summer vacation time, without taking their children from classroom activities.

Of course, there are many angles to any such discussion, but it has been brought to our attention that many businesses related to and dependent upon the tourism industry must close or limit their operation early due to 1) lack of staff available due to students going back to school, or 2) lack of tourism traffic caused by students going back

to school. Either way, many small businesses throughout our state have felt a definite negative impact.

In light of the great heat wave of last summer and the closing of many schools due to unbearable temperatures and soaring utility costs, I urge you to consider also the potential savings derived through not opening schools until the month of September. Being a former teacher as well, I also feel that students are really not ready to concentrate until following that final summer holiday and have discovered that first week or perhaps two weeks were not necessarily time well spent. With the heat as it was last summer across the country, attention spans, I'm sure, were even less; creating more difficulties in presenting interesting and educational lessons to students.

In addition, I hesitate to continue to remind you that our neighboring states of Missouri and Arkansas have recently passed such legislation. While this will not limit their students and families from coming to visit Kansas, it will limit the number of young Kansans available for employment in the tourism industry due to the fact that they will already be enrolled in school. This could of course result in the early seasonal closing of some of the attractions and tourism related businesses in the state of Kansas. It also would limit the opportunity for young Kansans to be employed in neighboring states in the tourism industry.

It is becoming a nationwide trend to pursue such legislation and the Travel & Tourism Division will continue in our efforts to provide you with solid documentation as to the benefits of extending the summer vacation past the Labor Day weekend. Representatives of Missouri's travel industry have estimated that \$20 million in traveler spending and \$12 million in lost payrolls were the cost of schools opening prior to the Labor Day weekend. Kansas has yet to determine the precise economic impact on our state, but it will be interesting to discover that information.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 635, concerning fixing the date for the commencement of the school term.