

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANSThe meeting was called to order by Senator Paul Hess at
Chairperson5:00 a.m./p.m. on February 16, 1984 in room 123-S of the Capitol.All members were present except:
Senator Harder

Committee staff present:

Research Department: Ed Ahrens, Mary Galligan, Lynne Holt
Revisor's Office: Norman Furse
Committee Office: Mark Skinner, Doris Fager

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Barbara Sabol, Secretary, Department of Health and Environment

SB 578 - Appropriations FY 1984, Social and Health Related Services
SB 514 - Appropriations FY 1985, Social and Health Related ServicesSB 578 - Section 2, Department of Health and Environment

Senator Doyen presented the subcommittee report on this section, and committee members were given opportunity to ask questions.

SB 514 - Section 5, Department of Health and Environment

The subcommittee report on Section 5 was reviewed by Senator Doyen. Following his presentation, Senator McCray raised a question concerning Recommendation No. 2, which would delete 23 new positions requested by the Department.

Senator McCray explained his concern, reminding the committee that there had been a successful effort by this committee to obtain a \$75,000 sickle cell anemia Federal grant, and Wesley Hospital has done a marvelous job in researching the problem. He said it is his understanding they are continuing research and would like to work in other areas in Kansas. In addition, the research includes other genetic problems.

Senator McCray continued by stating his second concern is with the WIC program, dealing with nutrition; and he would like to have people involved in that program reinstated.

Motion was made by Senator McCray and seconded by Senator Doyen to reinstate 3 of the 23 deleted for genetic research and 2 for WIC. The motion carried by voice vote.

At this point, the Chairman asked Secretary Sabol if she would like to respond to the subcommittee report. She reminded the committee that they had concurred with the Governor's recommendation for new laboratory equipment, but eliminated the position of Public Health Technician which is necessary for making use of the equipment. An important part of this laboratory testing is the addition of a pollutant test for public drinking water.

There was lengthy discussion about the fact that there are presently 20 vacancies in the Department of Health and Environment. Mrs. Sabol indicated it is not unusual to have 20 vacancies in a department with more than 500 employees. She further stated that these vacancies involve current responsibilities--those for which the department is mandated to provide at this time. The 23 new positions are to enhance certain programs or to solve certain problems. She noted that there had been a recent audit related to the Furley hazardous waste site which concluded the Department was short two people in that area.

SB 514 - Continued

There was discussion among committee members and questions for Secretary Sabol about the question of additional employees. During the discussion, it was revealed by Mrs. Sabol that there are basically 40 positions unfilled, but that 20 of them are in the category of turnover.

The hazardous waste program of the state was discussed at length, with the members of the subcommittee stating they felt it would be wise to leave positions out of the budget for that program until a definite decision is made concerning the nature of the program. Subcommittee members further stated they are not recommending that no further consideration be given these positions--only that they be considered later in the Legislative session.

Secretary Sabol commented on subcommittee recommendation No. 3, relating to transfer of \$500,000 transfer from the State General Fund to the Pollutant Discharge Cleanup Fund. She objected to the deletion of that amount, for the reason that money is needed for cleanup of waste sites, etc.

Motion was made by Senator Doyen and seconded by Senator Gaines to adopt the subcommittee reports as amended by Senator McCray.

A substitute motion was made by Senator Steineger and seconded by Senator McCray to reinstate \$50,000 of State General Funds which were deleted by the subcommittee in recommendation No. 4.

There followed a discussion concerning the need for the professional consultation in the area of hazardous waste management. Some committee members felt the department now has the expertise to take care of this area.

The substitute motion lost on a voice vote.

The primary motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion was made by Senator Doyen and seconded by Senator McCray to report SB 514 as amended favorably for passage. The motion carried by roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.