

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANSThe meeting was called to order by Senator August "Gus" Bogina at
Chairperson11:00 a.m./p./m/ on April 24, 1985 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senators Harder, Talkington and Winter

Committee staff present:

Research Department: Richard Ryan, Mary Galligan, Rogin Hunn

Revisor's Office: Norman Furse

Committee Office: Judy Bromich, Doris Fager

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Robert Harder, Secretary, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Barbara Sabol, Secretary, Department of Health and Environment

Duane Johnson, State Librarian

INTERIM STUDY REQUESTS

The Chairman explained that three requests have been approved by the Committee as a result of adoption of subcommittee reports: (1) SB 87, regarding roles of various state agencies in the promotion of Kansas agricultural products; (2) HB 2128, regarding the total financing system for care of the mentally ill and mentally retarded in Kansas at both the institutional and community level; and (3) HB 2134, regarding computer acquisition for the State of Kansas.

In addition to the above proposals for interim study, Senator Bogina indicated he had a request from Senator Werts concerning charging civil litigants user fees which cover the true costs of hearing their cases. (Attachment A). Following a brief explanation of this proposal, motion was made by Senator Werts and seconded by Senator Doyen to request a study of the matter. The motion carried by voice vote.

Senator Gannon presented a letter (Attachment B) to request a study of the cost-effectiveness of leasing state vehicles versus owning those vehicles. Motion was made by Senator Gannon and seconded by Senator Johnston to request an interim study as suggested in Attachment B. The motion carried by voice vote.

There was discussion about the previous decision to request a study of computer acquisition in Kansas. It was noted by the Chairman that it might become moot if the omnibus bill addresses the problem in another manner. No specific action was taken.

Senator Gannon suggested that it is time to look into the possibility of consolidating institutions within the Regents' system. Senator Werts said he was of the opinion that the Regents had undertaken such a study. It was decided that Senator Gannon would check into the matter and bring it to a later meeting of the committee.

HB 2577 - SRS: Administration, budgets, etc.

Dr. Harder explained that HB 2577 would combine the Division of Mental Health and Retardation Services with SRS. He suggested this would simplify the budget process for the Legislature and for the Secretary.

Motion was made by Senator Johnston and seconded by Senator Feleciano to report HB 2577 favorably for passage. The motion carried by roll call vote.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

room 123-S, Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m./p.m./ on April 24, 1985

HB 2586 - Medical students commitment to service areas

Secretary Sabol explained that HB 2586 changes the period of time a person under the medical scholarship program could choose an underserved area. The bill makes the timing compatible with the time the student would be a resident. She stated this has been discussed with all interested agencies, and all agree that it should be done.

Motion was made by Senator Feleciano and seconded by Senator Doyen to report HB 2586 favorably for passage. The motion carried by roll call vote.

HB 2598 - Abstracters' examination and license fees

It was indicated by staff that HB 2598 would make valid what is already being done by rules and regulations.

Motion was made by Senator Werts and seconded by Senator Kerr to report HB 2598 favorably for passage. The motion carried by roll call vote.

HB 2601 - Compensation for assistants and employees in Insurance Department

Mr. Furse explained that this bill simply provides that there would not be a limitation on salaries for certain employees. In answer to a question from Senator Werts, he said it is designed specifically to find an expert to take care of the health insurance program.

Motion was made by Senator Johnston and seconded by Senator Gaines to report HB 2601 favorably for passage. The motion carried by roll call vote.

HB 2603 - Grants-in aid to libraries

ALC
c Mr. Johnson distributed Attachment A, which explains the purpose of HB 2603. There were questions and discussion of the proposed legislation.

Motion was made by Senator Werts and seconded by Senator Kerr to report HB 2603 favorably for passage. The motion carried by roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

MERRILL WERTS
 SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT
 GEARY AND RILEY COUNTIES
 1228 MILLER DRIVE
 JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS 66441



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SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 CHAIRMAN ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 VICE CHAIRMAN WAYS AND MEANS
 MEMBER COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL
 INSTITUTIONS
 LABOR INDUSTRY AND SMALL
 BUSINESS
 ORGANIZATION CALENDAR AND RULES

(Recommendation No. 4)

April 8, 1985

Senator Gus Bogina, Chairman
 Senate Ways & Means Committee

Dear Gus:

The other day I provided you a copy of the March 28, Wall Street Journal editorial on "Tort Law's Victims", which suggested, among other things, that there might be some merit to charging civil litigants user fees which cover the true costs of hearing their cases.

The more I think about this concept, the better I like it. It appears that anyone can get a civil case into court for a docket fee of less than \$100. Why shouldn't those who are pursuing a medical malpractice claim for example, pay the full cost to the state of maintaining that court?

In addition to the possible merit of assessing such a "user" fee, such a practice might have an additional benefit of discouraging those suits which verge on the frivolous, which is to say that it very well could reduce the quantity of civil litigation.

What I am proposing, Gus, is that this concept might merit interim study sometime and, if implemented, it could have a substantial effect on revenues, and I believe it would be appropriate for the proposal to come from the Ways & Means Committee.

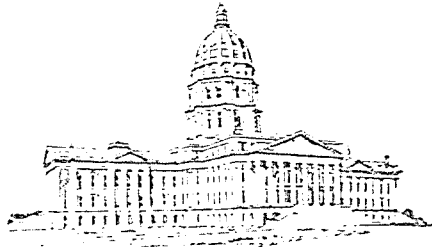
Sincerely,


 Merrill Werts

MW/nj

A 4-24
 11:00 a.m.

RICHARD G. GANNON
MINORITY WHIP
SENATOR, 40TH DISTRICT
CHEYENNE, DECATUR, GOVE, GRAHAM,
LOGAN, RAWLINS, SCOTT, SHERIDAN,
SHERMAN, THOMAS, WALLACE, WICHITA
BOX 68 ROUTE 3
GOODLAND, KANSAS 67735



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER AGRICULTURE
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE
LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL
APPORTIONMENT
WAYS AND MEANS
ADVISORY BOARD ON LOW-LEVEL
RADIOACTIVE WASTE
AGRICULTURE FOOD POLICY AND
NUTRITION COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
STATE LEGISLATURES

April 26, 1985

Senate Ways & Means Committee
Senator August Bogina, Chair
123-S, Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Bogina :

I would like to take this opportunity to request an official interim study of the cost-effectiveness of leasing state vehicles versus owning these vehicles.

This study could focus on the costs involved in providing a state maintenance pool vs the cost of a leasing agent's maintenance agreement with a possibility of the leasing agent paying the state for maintenance; the benefit to counties and the state of having vehicles which are taxed and tagged through regular channels; the cost of a state insurance plan vs. the insurance included in leasing costs; overhead costs associated with state ownership vs. overhead costs of leased vehicles; services provided by a lessor which could not be provided by state, or vice versa; interest on accumulation of funds when capital outlay not required for vehicle purchase; and any other associated issues.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Gannon
Senator - 40th District

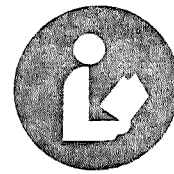
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KANSAS STATE LIBRARY

State Capitol, Third Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1593

913-296-3296 800-432-3919

Established August 25, 1855



TO: August Bogina, Chair and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee
RE: Supplementary Note on H.B. 2603
FROM: Duane Johnson 
DATE: Wednesday, April 24, 1985

H.B. 2603 would amend the state aid to libraries law (K.S.A. 75-2556) to give the State Library the authority to evaluate the circumstances surrounding a local library's loss of eligibility for state aid due to technical conflict with detail in the statute and possibly to continue the library's eligibility.

There have been circumstances when a local library has been in technical violation of eligibility requirements, but in fact, the local governing body is maintaining local effort in support of the library.

The local government may provide added revenue for capital improvement in a given year, a one-time expenditure. Then the reduced revenue in the succeeding year leaves the library ineligible for state aid. In spite of this reduction, the municipality is maintaining local effort for the on-going operations of the library.

The City of Liberal public library lost their state aid grant this year in this kind of conflict. The proposed amendment would let us evaluate a local situation to see that local effort is being maintained. If the local effort is verified we would have the authority to continue the library's eligibility.

There is no added staff requirement or other fiscal effect because of this bill. The state aid apportionment is a fixed amount each year, distributed among the currently eligible libraries.

Attached here is an added explanation of the intent of the bill, prepared for Representative Lowther.

DFJ/bas

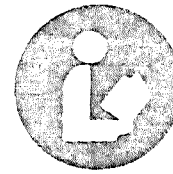
Enc.

KANSAS STATE LIBRARY

State Capitol, Third Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1593

913-296-3296 800-432-3919

Established August 25, 1855



TO: Representative Lowther
RE: House Bill 2603
Concerning grants-in-aid to libraries and eligibility therefore.
DATE: April 6, 1985

Jim:

Attached is information which instigated the introduction of H.B. 2603.

Each year, one or more libraries seem to get into a situation requiring a one-time, or short-term increase in their funding, usually for some unanticipated capital improvement, i.e., roof repair, heating system repair, etc.

In that circumstance, the city scrapes up the money to pay for the improvement as a one-time expenditure. The result is an increase in funding for the library in one fiscal year which is not continued in the next year.

This reduction in funding leaves the library ineligible for state aid even though the city is continuing the ongoing funding for the operations of the library. The local effort is, in fact, being maintained, but there is a technical violation of the eligibility criteria stated in statute.

The amendment in H.B. 2603 would let the State Library evaluate and continue a library's state aid eligibility in such a circumstance. The legislative intent for maintenance of local effort is explicit in the amendment and in this way strengthens the state aid law.

On the other hand, the amendment gives us the opportunity to evaluate a circumstance which may cause a library to lose eligibility and to continue the eligibility if the local effort is being maintained.

Thanks for your help with this.

Duane Johnson
State Library
3296

DFJ/bas

Enc.