

Approved March 3, 1988  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR AUGUST "GUS" BOGINA at  
Chairperson

11:00 a.m./~~xxx~~ on FEBRUARY 22, 1988 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Gannon was excused

Committee staff present:  
Research Department: Scott Rothe, Alan Conroy  
Revisor's Office: Norman Furse  
Committee Office: Judy Bromich, Pam Parker

**SB 463 - Retirant health care benefits program**

A policy question discussed related to whether or not to mandate the availability of health care coverage for retired KPERS members between 18 months after retirement, which is the end of the COBRA mandate, and age 65 if a person retires because of length of service prior to age 65.

Craig Grant, KNEA, stated he felt that if the state were to pick up just five dollars per month it would encourage more people to get into the group, thus lowering the premiums for everyone.

It was felt by the Committee that the retirant health care program, as outlined in SB 463 is new and complicated; it has not been studied in depth; and, it may be premature at this time to act on this issue. Because the Committee feels this issue merits further consideration it was the consensus to recommend no action at this time on SB 463. The Committee further recommends further study on this issue during the 1988 Interim.

**SB 464 - Group health care benefits eligibility for retired local government employees.**

Following discussion, Senator Johnston moved the adoption of four of the five amendments outlined in testimony presented by the League of Kansas Municipalities (minutes of the February 10, 1988 meeting, Attachment 2) The amendment omitted was that of the 125 percent of the premium cost (line 0040 of the bill). The motion passed on a voice vote.

Senator Feleciano moved 110 percent, line 0040 of the bill, which may be utilized to offset the costs of the premiums and administration costs. Senator Johnston seconded the motion.

Senator Werts offered a substitute motion to recommend 125 percent, line 0040 of the bill, with the stipulation that discretionary authority can be used to supplement premiums and administration costs. Senator Gaines seconded the substitute motion and it passed on a voice vote.

A motion was offered by Senator Werts and seconded by Senator Johnston to allow school districts to be included in SB 463. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Talkington moved, Senator Johnston seconded, to insert, for clarification, the word "such" in line 0034, Section 1(b) of SB 464. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Johnston moved, Senator Winter seconded, the recommendation for passage of SB 464, as amended. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned. 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.

