

Approved _____

3/27/89
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting was called to order by Senator Lana Oleen at
Chairperson

1:35 ~~a.m.~~/p.m. on March 14, 1989 in room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Gaines - Absent
Senator Doyen - Absent

Committee staff present: Julian Efird - Research
Jill Wolters - Revisor
Nancy Jones - Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Michael Lechner, Exec. Director, Advisory
Committee Employment of Handicapped
Ray Siehndel, Secretary, Human Resources

Hearing on:

HB 2096-Establishing a commission on disability concerns

Chairman Oleen requested Jill Wolters to review changes in all sections of HB 2096, clarifying the intent of the changes. Committee members questioned make-up of the commission, ex-officio members, fee structure and services provided as well as reimbursement of Advisory Committee members.

Michael Lechner reviewed the changes being proposed with the establishment of a commission for the disabled. Mr. Lechner said policy and function will not be altered with a change in title and the main focus of the Advisory Committee had been employment for those with disabilities. There is no problem with members of the legislature being ex-officio members as they will serve the stated three-year term. The position of executive Director will be a classified position. (Attachment 1)

Ray Siehndel presented brief remarks supporting HB 2096. This bill will eliminate the outmoded term "handicapped" from the title and will support continued evolution of progress and increased scope of service for the disabled in fields of employment. There will be no change in the staff or operation with the creation of a commission. (Attachment 2)

Discussion was held on HB 2384 and committee found no controversy.

Motion was made to recommend favorably HB 2384 by Senator Vidricksen; seconded by Senator Kanan.

Discussion was held on HB 2231 and Senator Vidricksen feels it is in the very best interests of all Kansans to retain the Coal Commission so that efforts may continue to develop the means to use more Kansas coal in industry. He also noted that the Commission has met its responsibilities regarding matching funds and additional funds are not being requested.

Motion was made to recommend favorably HB 2231, by Senator Vidricksen; seconded by Senator Kanan. Motion carried.

Committee members discussed bills in committee on which hearings have been held.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be March 16, 1989.

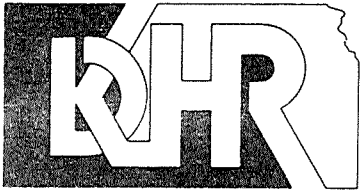
GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

DATE 3/14/89

NAME COMPANY / ORGANIZATION ADDRESS

Jed Levin	Northview DSI	Newton
Helen Miller	Vintage jeans	Topeka
Jan Vacek	KSCPA	Topeka
Marta Galchans	DAR/KACEN	Topeka
Michael Lechner	§ §	§
TV Hall	"	"

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT
OF THE HANDICAPPED**

1430 S.W. Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1877
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Mike Hayden, Governor

Dennis R. Taylor, Secretary

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2096

by Michael Lechner, Executive Director
February 3, 1989

Thank you, members of the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, for this opportunity to speak in support of HB 2096. My testimony will consist of an explanation of the amendments in this bill and the reasons for proposing them.

Section 1 changes the name of the Advisory Committee on Employment of the Handicapped to the Commission on Disability Concerns. We are seeking this change for three reasons. First, the work of the committee necessarily involves it in issues of transportation, education, in-home care, insurance coverage, accessibility and other issues of major life activity because barriers in such areas strongly influence employment opportunities for Kansans with disabilities. Therefore, the present title does not reflect the true scope or nature of committee functions. Second, our present name encourages people to call us in the hope that we can find them jobs. We cannot, for we are not a placement agency; we advise on policy and procedures that affect Kansans with disabilities. To these people, we then become another wall in the bureaucratic maze. Third, the word "handicapped" is outmoded and proves offensive to our constituency.

Section 2 increases membership from 25 to 30 members by adding five ex-officio members. All 15 appointments of other members would be made by the Secretary of Human Resources instead of the present 11. The current authority for appointments of four members lies with the legislative leadership. Five appointing authorities causes undue record keeping. The purpose for legislative appointments was to increase the legislature's involvement in committee business. This involvement is more strongly augmented in section 3 and I will address it in the discussion of that section.

Section 2 also replaces the requirement for qualifications of membership with a preference for qualifications of membership. It has proven extremely difficult to find the correct balance in these categories and we have had to occasionally overlook a good prospect because of this restriction.

We are also proposing to strike membership by members of the Senate and House of Representatives because the terms of elected office do not match the terms of service on the committee.

Section 3 changes the composition of ex-officio membership. We propose to include the leadership of the legislature in order to preserve and strengthen the legislative branch's involvement in committee business. Additionally, by making the legislative leadership members ex-officio, the discrepancy between terms of office and terms of service is resolved. The remainder of ex-officio changes provides for involvement by those in major policy making capacities and widens the scope of input available to the committee.

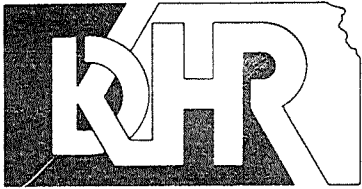
Section 4 increases the term of service on the committee from two years to three years. This change will make the statute consistent with terms of office for committee officers. Further, members feel that three year terms give the committee a more stable sense of continuity.

Section 5 would allow members to be reimbursed for attending functions other than meetings. Members are sometimes called upon to make presentations or consult with other organizations. We are proposing that they be reimbursed for such activity.

Section 6 changes and clarifies our mission. These amendments more closely reflect the work of the committee in areas that are not directly defined as employment.

Section 7 changes the title of the chief administrative officer from executive secretary to executive director. The title of executive secretary has come to mean a position that coordinates day to day office activity rather than administering a program.

Sections 8, 9, 10 and 11 provide for the transfer of functions to the new commission.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Mike Hayden, Governor

Dennis R. Taylor, Secretary

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2096
RAY SIEHNDEL
ACTING SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

I thank the chair and members of the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2096. The Advisory Committee on Employment of the Handicapped was established as the Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped in 1949. It has been housed in the Kansas Department of Human Resources since 1976.

In its forty years of existence, the committee has changed in response to the needs of its constituency, people with disabilities. The amendments in HB 2096 are a logical step in this continuing evolution. In the past decade, we have seen an accelerated influx of Kansans with disabilities into the mainstream of society. There are a few major reasons for this increased visibility. First, medical and technological advances are increasing the survival rate of Kansans with disabilities. Second, educational opportunities have increased. Third, public awareness of people with disabilities is increasing. Finally, people with disabilities are exploring more and diverse options to increase their independence.

In serving Kansans with disabilities, the Advisory Committee on Employment of the Handicapped has been foremost in advocating policy initiatives and amendments to keep Kansas government abreast of changing social demands. In pursuit of this mission, the committee has been increasingly involved in issues which do not conveniently fit into the category of employment. Issues such as education, housing, transportation, in-home health care and insurance are typical areas in which the committee works.

This is because we can no longer attempt to isolate employment from these other issues. Meaningful employment opportunities for Kansans with disabilities are contingent on and interrelated with education, transportation, housing, insurance and various other areas which are not readily discernible as being directly related to employment.

HB 2096 legitimizes the activity currently being undertaken by the committee. Michael Lechner, Executive Secretary to the committee, will take you through the bill and explain the rationale for each of these amendments.