

Approved 2-20-90  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don E. Crumbaker at  
Chairperson

3:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 14, 1990 in room 519-s of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representatives Amos, Blumenthal, and Lane, all excused.

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Thelma Canaday, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Merle Hill, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community Colleges  
Ms. Cindy Kelly, Deputy Legal Counsel, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Representative Bowden  
Mr. Norman Reynolds, Director of Education Services, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Mr. Craig Grant, Kansas National Education Association  
Ms. Brilla Highfill Scott, United School Administrators

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Crumbaker.

The chairman introduced a high school group from Brewster who were present with their teacher, Mr. Willis Crabtree and Mrs. Crabtree.

Hearings were opened by the chairman on HB 2751, an act concerning governing boards of community colleges and area vocational-technical schools; providing for the payment of expenses incurred by members of such boards.

Dr. Hill testified in support of HB 2751. Dr. Hill said community college and area vocational-technical school board members needed to be included in receiving subsistence, mileage and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties and HB 2751 would authorize this payment. (Attachment 1)

Ms. Kelly urged passage of HB 2751. Ms. Kelly said trustees at community colleges and board of control members at area vocational-technical schools receive no compensation for their services and should not be required to pay expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. (Attachment 2)

Hearings on HB 2751 were declared closed by the chairman.

The chairman opened hearings on HB 2788, concerning school districts, affecting definition of pupil under school district equalization act.

Representative Bowden explained HB 2788. Representative Bowden said passage of this bill would allow seniors to be counted full time if they are enrolled at least 1/2 time and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of requirements for graduation. Rep. Bowden pointed out many inner city students have to work part-time while attending school and passage of HB 2788 would allow schools to provide flexibility in meeting the unique situations of these students. (Attachment 3)

Mr. Reynolds testified on behalf of HB 2788. Mr. Reynolds said the key phrase in the definition of full time student is "...making satisfactory progress toward graduation from high school at the conclusion of the current school year". Mr. Reynolds pointed out providing this flexibility option could mean the difference between a senior student dropping out or remaining in school through graduation. (Attachment 4)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,  
room 519-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~x a m~~/p.m. on February 14, 1990.

Mr. Grant spoke in favor of HB 2788. Mr. Grant said if schools could provide flexibility for some students to attend only part-time it might encourage "at-risk" students to remain in school until graduation. (Attachment 5)

Ms. Scott testified for HB 2788. Ms. Scott said HB 2788 would allow the economically deprived student to complete graduation requirements and continue employment in the business community. A concern expressed by Ms. Scott was that seniors might use the flexibility feature for an early out process. (Attachment 6)

Mr. Burnett gave a personal instance where his son had been able to work part-time during his senior year and had gone on to achieve success.

The hearings on HB 2788 were declared closed by Chairman Crumbaker.

The chairman drew the committee's attention to the booklet "KATE VI, Kansans' Attitudes Toward Education" which had been supplied to each member by Dr. Jack Skillett, Emporia State University.

The meeting was adjourned by the chairman at 4:35.

The next meeting will be February 15, 1990 in Room 313-S at 3:30 p.m.





# KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Columbian Title Bldg., 820 Quincy • Topeka 66612 • Phone 913-357-5156

W. Merle Hill  
Executive Director

To: House Committee on Education

From: Merle Hill, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Community Colleges

Date: February 14, 1990

Subj: House Bill No. 2751: An Act concerning governing boards of community colleges and area vocational-technical schools; providing for the payment of expenses incurred by members of such boards.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am Merle Hill, executive director of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill No. 2751.

House Bill No. 2751 is a simple, straight-forward bill. It authorizes subsistence allowances, mileage and other actual and necessary expenses incurred by community college and area vocational-technical board members in the performance of their official duties.

School board members and members of the State Board of Regents have received subsistence, mileage and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties for many years. For some reason, nobody noticed that community college and area vocational-technical school board members were not included until just a short time ago.

It is important for community college board members to attend meetings of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges, to come to Topeka to present testimony before legislative committees, to monitor bills and talk with legislators, to attend regional and national meetings, etc. If community colleges are not authorized to reimburse their trustees for expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties and the trustees are required to pay for such expenses on their own, it is doubtful if the colleges will get qualified people to run for and serve on the boards of trustees.

OVER

*Attachment 1.  
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Committee on Education - 2

The members of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges request that you report House Bill No. 2751 favorably for passage.

Thank you.



TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2751  
BEFORE THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

by

Cynthia Lutz Kelly, Deputy General Counsel  
Kansas Association of School Boards

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of our member area vocational technical schools and community colleges, to speak in support of House Bill 2751.

Trustees at community colleges and board of control members at area vocational technical schools give generously of their time and receive no compensation for their services. They should not, in addition, be required to use personal resources for expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Kansas law currently allows for school board members to "be paid their necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties." K.S.A. 72-8207. Board members from community colleges and area vocational technical schools should be afforded the same opportunity.

We urge you to recommend House Bill 2751 favorably for passage.

STATE OF KANSAS

RICK BOWDEN  
REPRESENTATIVE, NINETY-THIRD DISTRICT  
433 WALNUT  
GODDARD, KANSAS 67052



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: EDUCATION  
MEMBER: GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
RULES AND JOURNAL

TO: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

RE: House Bill 2788

House Bill 2788 changes the definition of "pupil" for seniors (Grade 12). As defined by 2788, a student in grade 12 may be counted as a "Pupil" if that student is enrolled at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  time and is making satisfactory progress toward completion of the requirements for graduation from high school at the conclusion of the current year. Obviously, you are asking at this point "Why would we want seniors to be counted as a full pupil when they are enrolled in only one-half of the classes?" Permit me to explain my thoughts in requesting this change.

First let me say that it was not an easy decision on my part to ask for this change. As a 21-year veteran of teaching, part of me says "Keep these kids in school full time." More classtime is what they need, not less. Kids need to stay in class as long as possible. For much of our student population, this is a valid observation. However, experiences from the past few years tell me that in some cases and for some students, it would be better to give them less than a full day's schedule.

For 19 years I taught in a fairly affluent suburban school. Students who worked at jobs outside school normally did so only to have more pocket money for cars, gas, clothes, dates, etc. Few students worked to earn money for necessities, only luxuries or "wants". Parents permitted this work in order to encourage more responsibility on the part of their child or so the student could gain a different kind of

*Attachment 3.  
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work ethic. When grades dropped or extra curricular activities became more important, work outside school ended.

The last two years I've taught in the inner city high school in Wichita. Kids in this school work not so they can get luxuries of life, but rather for the necessities of life. In many cases, these kids are in one parent families and that one parent can not bring in enough income to sustain the family. These kids work at a variety of jobs, many of which require that they stay until well after midnight. Kids that are trying to keep a job and stay in school find that they have neither the time nor the energy to do homework or be attentive and alert in classes after getting in at 12:30 or 1:00 a.m. the previous night. They are a very "at-risk" sector of the inner school population. By allowing some flexibility and scheduling options, these kids might be kept in school for a few hours a day and these hours could be much more productive. I would certainly want and encourage school administrators and counselors to use this increased flexibility and scheduling freedom carefully.

For several of these kids, less hours in school might permit them to attend post-secondary classes outside their high school. I believe H.B. 2788 would piggyback onto S.B. 459 which permits students to gain both high school and college credit for college courses taken during their high school year.

Another potential benefit from this bill, and maybe it's wishful thinking on my part, is that those employers of these high school seniors may use their employer-employee relationship and influence to point out how gaining a better education would benefit the students' income earning ability and chances for job advancement. Many businessmen and women recognize the benefits they receive from a better skilled and trained workforce. Unfortunately, some students gain the same realization only after they have dropped out of school or graduated with a diploma but didn't learn much along the way.

In conclusion, I want to again say that I believe permitting students to attend only half-time should be a decision made only after school administrators spend time staffing and evaluating each

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student and the situation each student is in. As an educator, I wouldn't want this bill to be a vehicle that would weaken the educational program for senior students. Instead, I offer this proposal as a way to give the flexibility that I believe schools would want to have to meet the unique situations and conditions of students in their school. Just as there is no one perfect teaching method that will educate every student, I believe that flexibility in scheduling students in classes would help some students better prepare for life's work.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Rick Bowden  
93rd District

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Testimony on HB No. 2788  
before the  
House Education Committee

by

Norman L. Reynolds, Director of Education Services  
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 14, 1990

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the 302 member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards with regards to HB No. 2788.

The Kansas Association of School Boards has no opposition to allowing students in grade 12, who are attending school half-time, to be counted as full time students for SDEA purposes, as long as they are making satisfactory progress toward graduation at the conclusion of their 12th grade year.

The key phrase in the definition is, "...making satisfactory progress toward graduation from high school at the conclusion of the current school year." This is presumed to mean that students are enrolled in enough classes to complete the requirements of their respective districts and that district boards of education are left the option of determining by policy what constitutes, "...satisfactory progress toward graduation..."

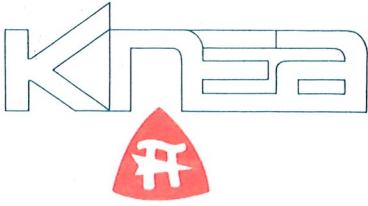
In some instances, this option for school districts could mean the difference between a senior student dropping out or remaining in school through graduation.

*Attachment 4.  
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KASB appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB No. 2788 and recommends that the bill be reported out of committee favorably.

I would be happy to respond to any questions the committee may have.

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Craig Grant Testimony Before The  
House Education Committee  
Wednesday, February 14, 1990

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Craig Grant and I represent Kansas-NEA. I appreciate this opportunity to visit with the committee about HB 2788.

Kansas-NEA supports the concepts included in HB 2788. We see no major problems with counting pupils in grade 12, who are making satisfactory progress toward graduation, as a full pupil even if they are only in school half-time. As long as the credits needed for graduation are met, schools could provide flexibility for some students to attend only part-time. Some of these students might be the "at risk" type of student who would drop out if "encouraged" by the school to attend full time just so they would count as a full-time student. We doubt if this would happen a great deal, but if the bill would help some students stay in school, then it might help.

K-NEA supports the concept embodied in HB 2788 and encourages its passage. Thank you for listening to our concerns.

*Attachment 5.  
House Education  
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House Bill 2788

**DEFINITION OF PUPIL  
UNDER SCHOOL DISTRICT EQUALIZATION ACT**

Testimony presented before the House Education Committee

by

Brilla Highfill Scott, Associate Executive Director  
United School Administrators of Kansas

February 14, 1990

**Mister Chairman and Members of the House Education Committee:**

United School Administrators of Kansas is supportive of House Bill 2788. We believe the intent of the bill is to encourage seniors to remain in school by allowing some flexibility in Full Time Equivalency (FTE) accounting. The bill allows the economically deprived student an opportunity to complete graduation requirements and continue employment in the business community.

Our one concern is that this bill may be interpreted as an "early-out option" for numbers of seniors. Most school districts have a plan for reviewing reduced schedule requests. We hope this committee will study the issue carefully to ensure that local procedures are in place so most seniors will continue to take advantage of the comprehensive curricula offered by Kansas schools.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

(t:hb2788)