

Approved

Thomas F. Walker  
Date 2-27-90

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Thomas F. Walker at  
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./p.m. on Monday, March 26, 1990 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman - Revisor  
Carolyn Rampey - Legislative Research  
Jackie Brey Meyer - Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Brady  
Melissa Ness - Kansas Childrens Service League  
Winston Barton, Secretary, Social & Rehabilitation Services

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and stated the minutes of Friday's meeting would stand approved at the end of the meeting if there were no corrections or additions.

HB 3084 - public-private social and rehabilitation services review  
commission created

Representative Brady addressed the bill. (Attachment 1)  
He stated the bill would provide a commission comprised of a small number of individuals to review the existing structure of the S.R.S. agency. He cited several areas of concern including the skyrocketing S.R.S. budget, agency credibility at an all time low, number of employees, the spread of program responsibilities, the recommending of the closure of area offices and the elimination of personnel and the fact that many programs that do not appear to have anything in common coming under the same agency.

Representative Brady was asked several questions about the makeup of the commission and why certain areas had been chosen or left out of its makeup. It was questioned if private sector people would not have to rely heavily upon staff for knowledge and expertise. Other strengths and weaknesses in the makeup were discussed.

Representative Brady directed attention to page 2, section 2, where it explained what the commission shall do. A committee member asked him if he thought that due to the vast and complex problems would he view the services of a professional consultant as an appropriate idea. He saw no objection to this and explained part of the bill allows the use of funds to do the targeting in on specific problems and try and see if they can get started and zero in on a particular thing. More comments were made by various members regarding an independent management study. Representative Brady also was asked if there would be input from S.R.S. employees. He stated in the affirmative.

Staff was asked about a joint resolution to handle the issue. Staff replied that in the case of members being compensated and receiving expenses this has always been a problem.

Melissa Ness, Kansas Childrens Service League, was next to testify for the bill. (Attachment 2) She stated the League has many opportunities to work with S.R.S. through grants or purchase of service contracts. She feels the bill presents an objective proposal of an endeavor which is long overdue. She cited citizen needs plus the compliance with federal mandates, that have made it hard to keep up with demands on the agency.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION,  
room 522-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m./p.m. on Monday, March 26, 1990

Ms. Ness expressed concern with the time limit of December on this commission. It is important that the commission recognize the magnitude of what they are taking on.

Secretary Barton, S.R.S. addressed the bill as an opponent. Although he is not opposed to the goals & objectives of the bill there is a key thing that had not been mentioned. The Kansas Public Agenda has a subcommittee that is working with S.R.S. along these same lines. It is looking at such things as reorganization; is the agency too big, etc. S.R.S. is a big agency. It has 12,000 persons, 8,000 full time employees, 7 large commissions. It touches one-third of the people of Kansas. The Secretary stated it is as lean an agency as any you could find in the state or in the country. He re-stated that he is not opposed to the concept of the bill, but would like to give the subcommittee the opportunity to continue and finish their study. Since there is no HB 3084 involvement from the executive, a veto of the bill would be expected. Subcommittee makeup and input by S.R.S. employees was discussed.

Chairman Walker asked if there were any other conferees on the bill. Seeing none, the hearing on HB 3084 was closed.

SB 755 - state certified real estate appraisers act

The Revisor read from the Kansas Appraisers For Certification attachment which suggested two possible amendments. The first regarded composition of the appraisal board. The appraisers believe that the Appraisal Board should consist of four appraisers instead of three appraisers. The other amendment would be to delete Section 3(b) which refers to the board recognizing on a temporary basis a certified/licensed appraiser issued from another state. They believe this is not necessary since all certified/licensed appraisers will be listed on a national registry.

Section 3(b) was discussed at length. One member said the federal government doesn't care where a particular person is certified if their name appears on the national register. Temporary recognition or the temporary nature of the job was discussed. Staff read the beginning of Section 3. Jeff Sonnich, Kansas-Nebraska League of Savings and Jean Duncan, Kansas Real Estate Commission, made a few comments. One of the members asked if changing "shall" to "may" would help the bill. The rules and regulations/statute issue was discussed. A sunset of the bill would simply insure that all issues would be considered and the legislature could decide if it is pleased with the way the process is operating.

Representative Miller moved to amend SB 755 to put July 1, 1993 sunset on the bill. Representative Weimer gave a second to the motion.

The question was asked if this would violate the federal mandate. Jim Maag, Kansas Bankers Association, said that the federal subcommittee would make the final determination as to whether the state was making progress toward solving the problem. Another committee member stated that the sunset says we would like to know the progress of this in three years. It is a chance for review and it should do no damage to the bill. Other comments of a sunset nature were made.

A vote was taken on the amendment and the motion carried.

Chairman Walker read from the fiscal note to clarify some questions as to startup funds and whether the general fund would be paid back. One of the members stated he did not feel good about the bill. The appraisers are not the reason for the problem.

Representative Sughrue moved to pass SB 755 favorably as amended. Representative Borum gave a second to the bill. The motion carried.  
Representative Krehbiel was recorded as voting "no".

The meeting was adjourned.



March 26, 1990

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to discuss H.B. 3084 with you. If enacted H.B. 3084 would provide a commission comprised of a small number of individuals, to review the existing structure of the Social and Rehabilitation Services Agency. The commission would be given a specified time period to examine the current structure by comparing our structure with that cited by other states.

1. Skyrocketing cost of the S.R.S. budget. As an Appropriations Committee member I feel uncomfortable that the dollars allocated are going to recipients and not to Administration.
2. S.R.S. credibility is at an all time low.
3. 3200 employees nearly 1,000 in Topeka.
4. Program responsibilities spread amongst many agencies.
5. House sub-committee responsible for review of S.R.S. budget recommended closing five area offices and eliminating fifty five positions in the central office.
6. Many programs that do not appear to have a great deal in common under the same umbrella organization.

*Attachment 1*  
*G.O.*  
*3/26/90*

...to protect  
and promote the  
well-being of children  
...to strengthen  
the quality of  
family life  
—since 1893

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TESTIMONY BEFORE  
THE HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE

RE: HB 3084 Public-Private social and rehabilitation  
services review commission

By: Melissa Ness, JD,MSW

Kansas Children's Service League is a statewide not for profit child welfare agency in Kansas. We have been involved in finding permanent homes for children and services to strengthen families since 1893. As such, we provide a variety of services based on community need. These include parent education, foster care, parent-adolescent mediation, pregnancy counseling, adoption and advocacy services. KCSL is a charter member of the Child Welfare League of America and accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Families and Children. We are also an active member with the Kansas Association of Licensed Child Care Agencies.

Consequently, we have many opportunities to work with the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for example through grants or purchase of service contracts.

On behalf of Kansas Children's Service League and KALPCCA we are here today to express our support for HB 3084.

HB 3084 presents an objective proposal of an endeavor which from our perspective is long overdue. As the needs of our citizenry have increased, largely due in part to the growing numbers of people, primarily children, living in poverty or who have no health insurance, or are a part of a growing older population, it is clear our state has not be able to keep up with the demand. Worsening this problem has been the dwindling federal resources which have placed more pressure on states to pick up services once subsidized in part by them. In addition, like many other states, Kansas must respond to increasing federal mandates, for example through Medicaid, with no increase in federal support.

Many factors such as these have placed what we believe to be enormous pressure on SRS's ability to deliver services effectively and efficiently. Their ability to set priorities based on good planning and evaluation methods has been hampered and has moved them into a reactionary position. As good managers we know this is not an optimal.

During the 1989 Legislature with the support of SRS, this body appropriated \$225,000 for a professional assessment on certain parts of the Youth Services Division of SRS. Due to budget cuts early in this year that \$225,000 was not applied to this effort. We firmly believe that had this assessment been done, it would have provided data and information for

not only SRS but the 1990 legislature as it was making it's most critical decisions on where to place limited dollars.

Additional time should be spent on refining the charge of the review commission. We also recommend that those appointed to the commission, as well as staff, have access to professionals with expertise on organizational development either through a pro bono or contractual relationship.

We are concerned about the time limit on this commission. It is important that this committee recognize the sheer magnitude of this undertaking and take the time to adequately determine the period needed to complete a useful report.

We believe this is a valuable step for this body to make. It establishes the recognition that as the demographics and consequently the needs of our most vulnerable citizens have changed, we must assess the structures and the manner in which we implement and determine state policy as to how resources will be targeted and allocated through the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.