

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

4-28-90

Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Federal and State Affairs

The meeting was called to order by Senator Edward F. Reilly, Jr. at  
Chairperson

3:15 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on April 5, 1990 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~:

Committee staff present:

Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Mary Galligan, Legislative Research  
Deanna Willard, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mark Hunt, Museums and Historic Properties, Director

Hearing on: HB 3097 - Use of State Historical Society facilities and property by third parties

Mark Hunt, Kansas State Historical Society, gave testimony explaining that many groups are interested in using the museum after hours, but this bill would enable them to keep the building available without cutting into their budget for regular programs. (Attachment 1) He said they want to see the museum used but don't want it commercialized. Allowing use of the facilities after hours is not unique to Kansas.

A conceptual motion was made by Senator Bond and seconded by Senator McClure that the language clearly state that there would be no charge for general admission. The motion carried.

A conceptual motion was made by Senator Bond and seconded by Senator Strick that language beginning on Line 14 state the society may charge groups that use the facilities for special events. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Bond and seconded by Senator McClure that the amount charged should be reasonable, only to cover costs. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Bond and seconded by Senator Walker that the unencumbered balance at the end of the year be transferred to general funds. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Bond and seconded by Senator Walker to amend in language from HB 2714 which would allow for consumption of alcoholic beverages at the State Historical Society Museum. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Strick and seconded by Senator Bond to remove the language "and located in Shawnee County." The motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Walker and seconded by Senator Anderson to amend in language of SB 461 beginning on Line 35. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Bond and seconded by Senator Vidricksen to report the bill favorably as amended. The motion carried.

Action on: HB 2284 - Requirement that inmates complete high school before parole

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.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Federal and State Affairs,  
room 254-E, Statehouse, at 3:15 ~~a.m.~~/p.m. on April 5, 1990

It was stated that a parole officer friend highly recommends this bill, that it gives the institution a tool and gives prisoners a goal to work on.

Staff was directed to check on educational requirements of SRS regarding juveniles confined to youth centers to see if they would be interested in similar legislation.

A motion was made by Senator Morris and seconded by Senator McClure to report the bill favorably. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Testimony before the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee  
Regarding HOUSE BILL NO. 3097

Mark A. Hunt, Director  
Museums and Historic Properties  
Kansas State Historical Society

April 5, 1990

Today, I have been asked by Historical Society Administration to explain the reasons why we are seeking the legislation now under consideration by your committee to allow for use of Society Facilities by outside groups. The bill includes authority for the Historical Society to assess each group for the extra costs associated with that group's use of those facilities including utilities, maintenance, and security costs, as well as the longer term costs associated with additional use of a facility--its interior finishes and equipment.

To explain our reasons for desiring this authority, I should go back a bit in time to roughly six years ago when we first opened the doors of the Kansas Museum of History to the public. At that time, the number of visitors was growing, but still not immense. We had special changing exhibits available for visitors to see, but main gallery exhibits were still under construction. Our theme tours of exhibits were yet in the developmental stages. Without any kind of advertising budget and very few highway signs, our best bet for making people aware of us was through press releases and especially "word-of-mouth". To further encourage that kind of publicity - to get people inside our facility we began to encourage groups to hold a meeting in our education classrooms and to include in their museum visit a tour of the special gallery and behind-the-scenes work areas to get people excited about future exhibits and programs and to help them understand what a complicated process the development of exhibits was.

As time went on, our various phases of main gallery exhibits opened and in-house tour programs expanded in number and numbers of participants. More and more individuals, businesses, and organizations desired to hold functions at the museum. We were "discovered" by the Topeka Convention and Visitors Bureau as an ideal place to bring convention participants and as a place to hold receptions and dinners. All of these activities have greatly increased Kansans' awareness of the Kansas Museum of History and its many programs and services. We want to continue to work with organizations like the Topeka Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Department of Commerce and its Division of Travel and Tourism, etc. Exposing people to the museum and what it has to offer encourages greater use of this resource by the citizens of the state. We also have found that the museum can be an outstanding introduction to the state for out-of-state and foreign visitors to Kansas.

However, as our main gallery exhibits have been completed and tours and other educational programs expanded to meet an ever-increasing demand, we have found ourselves requiring steady in-house use of the classroom areas that we once were able to use for outside groups during regular business hours. Our educational programs are now reaching over 100,000 people per year, many of them school children. Our classroom space for school tours, lectures, films, classes, etc. is at a premium.

Thus, while demand for outside use for museum spaces has increased steadily and is at its highest point ever currently, we have had fewer and fewer available slots in our classroom schedule for those groups. Yet, the validity of our reasons for bringing those groups into the museum is still strong, both to further advertise our services and to get maximum use of the dollars invested in the museum by the State of Kansas. To continue this program of bringing interested groups into the museum, we must now focus on after hours activities. Because our maintenance, security, and education staff are already putting in at least forty hours per week and sometimes more than that, we need to find a way to keep the building available to organizations and state government groups without impacting unfavorably on the regular array of programs we already offer during our regular business hours.

Senate F&SA  
4-5-90  
Att. 1

Those, then, are our major reasons for desiring that this bill be made law - to allow us to continue to offer the museum to groups as a unique place to hold a meeting or event and at the same time be exposed to our exhibits and educational programs. Yet we also must be able to charge those groups a modest fee to cover the added expenses for staff, maintenance, security, utility use, and depreciation of carpet, furniture, etc. that such use will incur. This "third party use" of museum facilities is not a new idea for museums, but recently more and more cultural institutions have begun to offer their facilities to outside groups for a fee, both to expose more people to their institution and all the positive public relations that can result and to make a small profit to help finance other institutional objectives. I do not want anyone to make too much of the profit-making part of this, because the minute a museum's fees match or exceed those of other rented halls, motels, or hotels, the advantage museums have as unique places to hold affairs begins to disappear. We really do not want to be in competition with private concerns that rent meeting space. We simply want to be able to meet a strong demand for use of our facilities that already exists. Requests for use of other Historical Society facilities at the Research Center and our historic sites also exist to a greater or lesser degree. The House Federal & State Affairs Committee limited the bill to facilities within Shawnee County. We find that an acceptable alternative to our original request for this legislation to cover all Society properties statewide.

We are right now in the process of developing estimates of our costs for making facilities available to outside groups including liability insurance and other hidden costs that the fees must cover as well as the costs I mentioned above. Without doubt, "third party use" of facilities will have a substantial positive effect on the Historical Society and museum and on the state as a whole. I urge you to act favorably on this bill and in that way give the Historical Society an important marketing tool to expand the audiences for its excellent public programs and services.

Thank you. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.