

Approved February 13, 1991
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Economic Development

The meeting was called to order by Senator Dave Kerr at
Chairperson

8:00 a.m. ~~4:00~~ on February 12, 1991 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Janice McClure (excused)

Committee staff present:

Bill Edds, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
LaVonne Mumert, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Ben Vidricksen
Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
David DePue, Council on Vocational Education
Kevin Robertson, Kansas Association of Area Vocational-Technical Schools

Senator Dave Kerr, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Senator Ben Vidricksen presented a bill draft regarding requiring project cost estimates and reports to be filed for county road and bridge work. He noted that this is a privatization bill. Senator Oleen moved that the committee introduce the bill: Draft # RS 0503. Senator Vidricksen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SB 33 - Establishing Kansas skills program

Lynne Holt explained that SB 33 is one of the bills resulting from last summer's interim activities and that it was prompted by Dr. Charles Krider's recommendations concerning work force training. She said the area vocational-technical schools (AVTS) receive funding based on enrollment and don't have funds available for starting new education programs. She said the intent of the bill is to encourage transfer of knowledge and technology through expansion programs and internship programs.

David DePue testified in support of the bill. He said the bill would allow quick response to human capital needs. He noted that there are some federal funds available, but the competition for the monies is stiff and the process is not very quick. Dr. DePue added that there is local support for this type of program. Senator Salisbury asked about the amount of money Dr. DePue feels would be needed. He said that because of the expiration of the Carl Perkins' funds, the state will essentially be losing \$700,000 and that amount, along with the local match, would allow a reasonable beginning for the program. Answering Chairman Kerr's question about whether or not there would be adequate matching funds, Dr. DePue said the Council on Vocational Education has been holding public hearings and have been told the greatest need is for human resources and he feels the local support is available.

Kevin Robertson provided written testimony (Attachment 1) in support of the bill. He said that since AVTS funding is enrollment driven, schools are reluctant to begin new "innovative" programs and bear the additional costs without guarantees that the programs will be utilized. He said SB 33 would be of assistance in increasing internship programs as well. Mr. Robertson expressed concern that funding this program might cause a "shift" in funding from existing programs.

The Committee spent some time in discussing the bill. It was noted that the fiscal note indicates the only real cost of the program would be the amount of money put into it. There was discussion about whether this bill would be the best approach to encourage development of market-driven programs and whether any purpose is served in implementing such a program without

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Economic Development,
room 123-S, Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m.~~XXXX~~ on February 12, 1991

providing funding.

Senator Vidricksen moved that the minutes of the February 8, 1991 meeting be approved. Senator Moran seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00. The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday, February 13, 1991.

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF AREA VOCATIONAL—TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Date: February 12, 1991
To: Senate Committee on Economic Development
From: Kevin Robertson
Director of Governmental Affairs
Re: SB 33 - Kansas Skills Program

Richard Kingston
President

Keith Stover
President Elect

Robert Stinson
Secretary

Richard McWhorter
Treasurer

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee my name is Kevin Robertson, I am Director of Governmental Affairs for the Kansas Association of Area Vocational-Technical Schools (KAAVTS). I am hear today in support of SB 33.

As you aware, SB 33 is an interim recommendation by the Joint Committee on Economic Development. The origin of this legislation is contained within the Institute for Public Policy and Business Research study, "Work Force Training: The Challenge for Kansas."

Since I began working with Kansas' 16 AVTSSs in 1988 I have from time to time heard them criticized, often by members of this committee, for not integrating new high-tech "on the cutting edge" programs into their school's offerings as quickly as you would like. AVTS funding and program development is enrollment driven; therefore, AVTSSs must divert funds from existing programs to implement new ones. Schools are reluctant to begin a new "innovative" program, bear the start-up costs of equipment and salary, and implement a program without guarantees that students will enroll by the necessary numbers to make the new program feasible.

SB 33 will assist and encourage AVTSSs to explore new innovative technologies with area industry. An industry may need new workers trained in a new high-tech field. If the business is willing to provide the equipment, money or other support necessary to meet one-half of the start-up costs of the program, the state will supply the remaining 50%. Virtually, the AVTS have nothing to lose by taking an innovative risk - so why not take the chance? By combining the current practice of recruitment of industry support for new programs with state money, programs which have important economic impact implications would have a better chance of being developed and implemented. It is conceivable that new AVTS programs could begin immediately.

SB 33 further would assist AVTSSs provide their instructors with business and industry internships. The best, most complete ongoing training for a vocational-

Attachment 1
2/12/92
Sen. Eco Dev

technical instructor is hands-on industry experience. By working in the field for period of 6 to 12 weeks or longer, the instructor is able to see new technologies and techniques first-hand, then better relate them to the students back in the classroom.

At least two AVTSs are working with business and industry to provide some type of internship opportunities for their instructors. Schools and teachers have generally been reluctant to participate in internship programs because they can be cost prohibitive from the schools point of view and teachers often have other commitments during their off time. A business, especially in the current economic situation, may not be willing to pay a teacher internship a full salary if it is not in need of workers. In this case, the AVTS would have to pay a full salary or at least part.

By providing state assistance to supplement salaries, etc., an AVTS and businesses would be more likely to allow and encourage teachers into their place of work and also allow a representative to teach at their school for a period of time.

Though Kansas' AVTSs do support SB 33, we are concerned over the available funding to make it work. The governor's current resources AVTS funding has been cut by \$600,000 for FY 1992. If funding for the Kansas Skills Program is simply a shift of money from one AVTS funding line-item to another, we will have difficulty supporting it.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, I will be happy to try to answer them at this time.

2/12/91

1-2