

Approved February 6, 1992
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The meeting was called to order by REPRESENTATIVE M. J. JOHNSON at
Chairperson

1:35 ~~am~~/p.m. on FEBRUARY 4, 1992 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representatives Walker Hendrix, Tom Thompson, George Gomez, and Garry Boston are excused.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Legislative Research Dept.
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Connie Smith, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Fred Johnson, Capitol Area Security
Representative Jo Ann Pottorf
Representative Michael O'Neal

Chair called for introduction of bills.

Fred Johnson, representing Capitol Area Security, appeared before the committee to request introduction of three bills. They are as follows: 1) Relating to motor vehicles; concerning unlawful statehouse parking; 2) Concerning the regulation of traffic; relating to unlawful statehouse parking; and 3) Relating to the capitol area security patrol.

The Chair stated that Colonel Bert Cantwell had requested these bills to be introduced.

Representative Robert Watson moved to introduce the three bills. It was seconded by Representative Richard Lahti. The motion carried.

The Chair informed the committee it was County Government Day and welcomed guests to House Local Government.

The Chair called for hearings on HB 2786.

HB 2786 - Property tax work-off programs authorized for the elderly.

Representative Jo Ann Pottorf, chief sponsor of HB 2786, appeared in support and provided written testimony. (Attachment 1) She stated a person must be 60 years of age or older and own property to be able to work in a school district part time to pay off their property tax. The program called the Senior Tax Exchange Program - STEP - would be limited to taxes on the principal residence of the eligible seniors or their spouses. Pay for the property tax work-off program would be based on the federal minimum wages. She stated this concept has been used in several school districts in Colorado.

Representative Pottorf responded to questions from the committee.

Patricia Baker, Associate Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards, submitted written testimony in support of HB 2786 and was present to answer questions. (Attachment 2) No questions from the committee.

There were no opponents to HB 2786. The Chair closed the hearing on HB 2786.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

room 521-S, Statehouse, at 1:35 ~~a.m.~~/p.m. on FEBRUARY 4, 1992

The Chair called for hearings on HB 2798.

HB 2798 - Reno county; law enforcement consolidation.

The Chair recognized Representative Michael O'Neal, a sponsor, who appeared and gave background and intent of HB 2798. He stated that Reno county has been looking at consolidation of local government services and the county counselor advised him that in consolidating a law enforcement agency it should be by Statute. Only one other county, Riley, has done this. The bill authorizes the submission of the question of consolidating law enforcement in Reno county.

There were no opponents to HB 2798 and the Chair closed the hearing.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of January 30, 1992. A member noted the spelling of Rick Eberhard was incorrect. A motion was made by Representative Nancy Brown to approve the minutes of January 30, 1992 as corrected. It was seconded by Representative Judy Macy. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DATE February 4, 1992

NAME

ADDRESS

REPRESENTING

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Oliver Hameles	Kinsley B	Comm. of Edwards County
Arthur Sliche	Kinsley KS	Edwards Co. Comm.
Lourence Wieser	Leoti, KS	Wichita Co. Comm
Betty Barff	Marienthal KS	Wichita Co. Comm
Sharon Simitt	Johnson Co.	Stanton Co. Clerk
Ramona Neys	Ness City KS.	Ness Co. - Clerk
Meredith Spracher	Atwood KS	Lawrence County Clerk
Janet C. Martin	Oakley, KS	Logan County Clerk
Barlene Kegan	Hill City KS	Graham County Clerk
Lushe Semman	300 W. Court City	Thomas County Clerk
Pat Baker	Topeka	KASB
Kim Jiringer	Topeka	Red Cross
Stephanie Smith	Topeka	Red Cross
Betty A. Duggan	Topeka	Dept. on Aging
Donna Lott	Topeka	R.H.P.
Gail Hale	Box 24 Sataste, KS	Shashell County Commissioner
Ethel Evans	7603 S. Red Ellysses	Grant Co. Comm.
Shel Johnson	Trop K KHP	KHP



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

JO ANN POTTORFF

REPRESENTATIVE, EIGHTY-THIRD DISTRICT

6321 E. 8TH STREET

WICHITA, KANSAS 67208-3611

(316) 684-3780

STATE CAPITOL

ROOM 183-W

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1587

(913) 296-7696

FAX: (913) 296-1154

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS
EDUCATION
TAXATION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL CLAIMS
AGAINST THE STATE
NCSL ASSEMBLY ON THE LEGISLATURE
TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
EDUCATION CONSOLIDATION AND
IMPROVEMENT ACT (ECIA) ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Madam Chairperson:

With escalating property taxes, many homeowners have been faced with property taxes that have doubled or tripled over the years. Many older Kansans living on fixed income find it difficult to keep their homes. STEP - Senior Tax Exchange Program - is one way to help relieve the tax burden on senior citizens.

Senior citizens are an underutilized resource in our communities. We want to get them involved in our schools for several reasons and, in turn, we could use their expertise, time, and willingness to help. By incorporating senior citizens into the school district, their earnings could then be applied to the school district portion of their property tax bill.

In order for a senior to qualify for participation, the property on which the senior resides must be owned by the senior, must not be income producing, and must be within taxing jurisdiction of the corresponding school district. These guidelines are set forth to ensure that all STEP participants are property-owning taxpayers and that they are eligible for the benefits bestowed upon them should they participate in the STEP Program.

Senior citizens would be hired to fill some of the temporary positions within the school district. Flexibility would be an important factor in fitting the program to an appropriate schedule for each senior. The number of hours of work would be based on the amount of property taxes, or a portion of them, to be worked off divided by the minimum wage set by federal law.

The benefits of STEP extend to both the participants and the school district. Participants would be allowed the opportunity to use their time to provide a school district service that otherwise would have been paid by their taxes. They would be able to gain control of their economic life in a time of escalating taxes, they would be given the opportunity to share some of the knowledge they have accumulated over their lifetime, and they would be around individuals who could have a significant effect on their lives.

Lj
2-4-92
Attach. 1

The benefits to the school district are limited. It is cost effective to substitute labor for tax monies. Participants in the program would bring years of experience to these jobs and the short-term aspect of the job ties into their lives fairly well. STEP provides the school district with a creative opportunity to provide services to a sector of the population (which most of us will join one day) that attempts to manage inflexible income in a time of ever-rising costs.

February 4, 1992

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

5401 S. W. 7th Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66606
913-273-3600

Testimony on H.B. 2786
before the
House Committee Local Government

by

Patricia E. Baker
Associate Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 4, 1992

Madam Chair, Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to submit these concerns regarding House Bill 2786.

As a voluntary program, the property tax work-off proposal has the positive aspects of helping to alleviate tax burdens for our senior citizens. Taxing entities may choose to receive in-kind services in lieu of tax payments.

We would ask the Committee to carefully investigate a couple of areas of concerns: first, the extent to which the taxing entity would be subject to workers' compensation and unemployment compensation by taking part in this program; second, although I am not a tax attorney, it would seem to be important to receive assurances from the IRS that compensation in the form of tax forgiveness would not be treated as subject to Federal income tax. A final consideration for public entities will undoubtedly be whether general liability and errors and omissions insurance policies will cover the activities of persons taking part in these programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

PE
2-4-92
Attach. 2