

Approved February 6, 1992
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR JOSEPH C. HARDER at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xx~~ ~~xx~~ /p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 1992 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Mr. Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Ms. Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Mr. Dale Dennis, Assistant Commissioner of Education
Mrs. Millie Randell, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

SB 467 - Kansas high school graduate warranty act.

Proponents:

Mr. Eddie Estes, Dodge City, Chairman of the Education Committee, Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Craig Grant, Director of Political Action, Kansas National Education Association
Mr. Gerald Henderson, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas
Dr. David L. DePue, Executive Director, State Council on Vocational Education

Opponents:

Mr. Mark Tallman, Coordinator of Governmental Relations, Kansas Association of School Boards

Comments:

Dr. Jim Yonally, USD 512, Shawnee Mission
Ms. Denise Apt, Iola; former vice-chairman, House Education Committee

After Chairman Joseph C. Harder called the meeting to order Senator Webb moved that minutes of the meeting of Thursday, January 30 be approved. Senator Frahm seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

The Chair recognized the first conferee, Mr. Eddie Estes, Dodge City, Chairman of the Education Committee, Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Estes explained why his organization supports SB 467 in his testimony found in Attachment 1. Mr. Estes stated that a warranty program would work for educational institutions just as businesses have had to adopt warranty programs regarding their products or services.

Mr. Craig Grant testified that the Kansas National Education Association believes that when a student has been certified to have satisfactorily completed the course requirements for graduation, the certification should include accountability. Mr. Grant expressed uncertainty regarding the term "entry level position of employment" contained in the bill and suggested this terminology be defined before the program should be implemented. (Attachment 2)

Replying to a question, Mr. Grant conceded that there is nothing in the bill requiring a student to return to school; but, he said, the bill provides a funding mechanism for the student to return to school.

Mr. Gerald Henderson informed the Committee that the United School Administrators of Kansas is pleased that this bill begins to speak to skill level requirements instead of course requirements. Mr. Henderson

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

room 123-S Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 1992

expressed concern that SB 467 does not create a bureaucracy to deal with skill deficiencies and stated that the remediation ought to be the responsibility of the parent school of a returning student. (Attachment 3)

The executive director of the State Council on Vocational Education, Dr. David DePue, testified in support of SB 467. He stated that business, industry, and labor are the customers for the vocational education programs, and they should judge the quality of work performance. He stated that two advantages of SB 467 are: 1) it would instill confidence in our product by the business community, and 2) it would keep education application oriented (e.g., reading for contents or directions instead of for appreciation). Dr. DePue informed members that skills which employers expect from entry level employees include: good verbal and written communication skills, usage of mathematics in measurement systems and problem solving, and social skills; all of which, he asserted, are basic competencies that should be taught in the K-12 program. Dr. DePue reiterated that although he would rather see such a policy adopted by local boards of education, he would encourage passage of SB 467 if the Committee deems it a better avenue for achieving the goal of employability.

Although Mr. Mark Tallman, Coordinator of Governmental Relations, Kansas Association of School Boards, expressed support for the intent of SB 467, Mr. Tallman stated that KASB cannot support SB 467, and his reasons are stated in his testimony found in Attachment 4.

Responding to a question, Mr. Tallman said he did not think that entry level qualifications for employment are the same as what advocates feel are necessary qualifications for entry into college.

Dr. Jim Yonally, USD 512, Shawnee Mission, stated that although his school board supports the concept of SB 467 it feels the policy should be left up to the local boards of education and not be mandated by the state. He informed members that if SB 467 should not pass, it is the intention of his district to implement such a program. Dr. Yonally conceded that the advantage of a state law is that there is uniformity of procedure.

When the Chair called for additional conferees, Ms. Denise Apt, Iola, responded that she would like to provide the Committee with some history of SB 467. Ms. Apt. informed the Committee that she had introduced the concept of SB 467 about six years ago when she was vice-chairman of the House Education Committee as an attempt for educational reform through accountability. She indicated it was a struggle to have her bill heard by Committee and said everyone was an opponent. Ms. Apt said she supports SB 467, because she feels it would bring attention to the problem and, hopefully, be a stronger motivation for school districts to graduate students who are better qualified.

Following a call for additional conferees, the Chair announced that the hearing on SB 467 was concluded.

The Chairman called the Committee's attention to an invitation received by Committee members inviting them to a continental breakfast with the Governor on Thursday, February 6, at 8 a.m.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 123-S DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 1992

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
PETER WEDEL	5630 SW 17 th	PAGE
Ben Abbo	1454 Arrowhead Road	Page
John Wedel	5630 SW 17 th	Page
Glen Yancy	300 SW Oakley	SRS - Rehab. Serv.
Howard Thompson	Lincoln	Co. Comm.
Craig Grant	Topeka	H-WEA
Katharine Weickert	Topeka	USA
Connie Dietz	Wichita	WISE Partnership
Edie [unclear]	Dodge City	Wichita [unclear] Assn KCCI
David [unclear]	Topeka	KCCOE
Mark Tallman	Topeka	KASR
Jim Yonally	S-M	USD #512
Garret [unclear]	Topeka	USAPK'S
Jim [unclear]	Topeka	
Jim Allen	Topeka	Pete McGill Assoc.
Robin Nichols	Wichita	USD 259
Scott Hessel	Topeka	Kansas Inc.
Deborah Smith	Lawrence	St. Francis Intern
John T. Marshall	Topeka	Harris News Service
Dennis [unclear]	Topeka	U.S.D. #500
Ray [unclear]	Topeka	KUEA
Mont [unclear]	Topeka	AT
Hornes		DOB
Humandy	Topeka	Gov. Office

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 123-S DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 1992

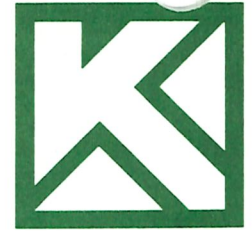
GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Kim Vickers	Topeka	Intern (Karr)
Shopp Smith	" "	Retired Teacher
Marlin C. Osborn	Ellinwood	Barton Commissioner
Ronald W. Grathm	Gove, Ks.	P.C.D.I.
Winston Peterson	Logan, K	Lg. Co. Comm.
Richard Fomer	Gove Co - Ks	Gove Co Comm.
Christi Huesler	Topeka	St Bd of Ed
Nancy Robinson		LVW
Pat Baker	Topeka	KASB
TED D. AYRES	TOPEKA	BOARD OF REGENTS

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry

500 Bank IV Tower One Townsite Plaza Topeka, KS 66603-3460 (913) 357-6321



A consolidation of the
Kansas State Chamber
of Commerce,
Associated Industries
of Kansas,
Kansas Retail Council

SB 467

February 4, 1992

KANSAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Testimony Before the
Senate Education Committee

by

Eddie Estes
Jim Edwards

~~Director of Chamber and Association Relations~~
Chairman of Ed Comm

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and explain KCCI's support for SB 467, a bill which would create the graduate warranty act in Kansas. I am ^{Eddie} Jim ^{Estes} ~~Edwards, Director of Chamber and Association Relations~~ _{Chairman of Ed Comm} for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) is a statewide organization dedicated to the promotion of economic growth and job creation within Kansas, and to the protection and support of the private competitive enterprise system.

KCCI is comprised of more than 3,000 businesses which includes 200 local and regional chambers of commerce and trade organizations which represent over 161,000 business men and women. The organization represents both large and small employers in Kansas, with 55% of KCCI's members having less than 25 employees, and 86% having less than 100 employees. KCCI receives no government funding.

The KCCI Board of Directors establishes policies through the work of hundreds of the organization's members who make up its various committees. These policies are the guiding principles of the organization and translate into views such as those expressed here.

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American businesses, in order to be competitive, have had to adopt warranty programs which assure the buyers of their products or services, that they are getting what they paid for and if they don't, there is a process by which they can. A couple of years ago, educational institutions began questioning why they didn't do the same for their graduates. A warranty program would work for these institutions just as it does for business...it would allow them to receive feedback on their products and make corrections in a timely fashion.

There are at least two schools in Kansas which have warranty programs already...Hesston and Topeka. While it is probably too soon to tell how much activity will be created by these programs, the public and business perception to date has been very positive. This in itself could prove to be the most valuable aspect of the program. After all, you naturally feel good about a product that the producer stands behind. The mere fact that the schools themselves took the initiative in creating these warranty programs quiets even their most vocal critics.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, this is an idea whose time has come. We urge your support. I would stand for questions.



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 W. 10TH STREET / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Craig Grant Testimony Before
Senate Education Committee
Tuesday, February 4, 1992

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Craig Grant and I represent Kansas-NEA. I appreciate this opportunity to visit with the committee in support of SB 467.

Kansas-NEA supports SB 467. We believe that if we certify that a student has satisfactorily completed the course requirements for graduation, that we should be held accountable for that decision. Our graduates should not be deficient in math or communications skills. If they are, we should remediate the problem. I hope this will eliminate entirely diplomas being granted to some for just attending our schools.

I do have a concern as to the definition of the term "entry level position of employment" which is used in line 34 of page one and elsewhere. There may be somewhere a standard definition of entry level, but I am unaware of what it is and I think maybe should be included in the bill. An "entry level position" for a nuclear laboratory may be quite different from an "entry level position" at an insurance company. Some understanding needs to be made now as to what we mean before the program is implemented.

Kansas-NEA supports SB 467. We believe the above change is important to make and would urge the committee to amend the bill and pass it favorably. Thank you for listening to our concerns.



SB 467

February 4, 1992

Testimony presented before the Senate Committee on Education
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director
United School Administrators of Kansas

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

United School Administrators of Kansas is not opposed to the idea of providing a warranty for Kansas high school graduates. Several school districts in the state currently provide such a warranty.

We are pleased that this bill begins to speak in language which indicates the change from course requirements to skill level requirements. Through the QPA program sponsored by the state board, Kansas is coming ever closer to agreeing on what we want from our schools. Once we reach those agreements and can agree on the assessments needed to demonstrate that students can perform at the levels agreed upon, then the warranty spoken to in **SB 467** is a logical next step.

Our one concern with **SB 467** lies with the bureaucracy created to remediate skills deficient graduates. Under the provisions of warranties now in existence, deficiencies are remediated by the school at no added costs to anybody. The language in this bill which provides a "skills improvement program in a manner and at a time most convenient to the skills deficient graduate" seems to point in most cases to the school from which the person graduated.

I am certain that the drafters of this bill are interested in providing a mechanism through which employers can access the warranty system, and perhaps reporting to the state board is a good idea, but the remediation ought in our judgement be the responsibility of the parent school.

Thank you for hearing our concerns. While we might argue that the provisions of **SB 467** are a bit premature, we will agree that the May 1, 1993 implementation date may well provide yet another incentive to keep the QPA process on task.

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Testimony on S.B. 467
before the
Senate Committee on Education

by

Mark Tallman, Coordinator of Governmental Relations
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 4, 1992

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Although KASB agrees with the intent of S.B. 467, we cannot support this particular mechanism.

KASB has proposed a set of state goals which include (1) providing all students with strong competencies in fundamental skills and (2) preparing students for success in postsecondary education and employment. We believe that district performance should be measured by state assessment tests; drop-out, attendance and graduation rates and other indicators. We believe that the State Board of Education should establish clear educational outcomes, and that districts failing to meet those standards should be subject to meaningful and appropriate sanctions.

We believe S.B. 467 is an inappropriate mechanism for achieving these goals. First, the number of graduates who do not have "entry level skills" has never been established. The two districts we know of which provide a similar "graduate warranty" have never had a student "returned," which may either suggest that all students are "passing," or that the warranty

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concept is not particularly useful in determining educational standards or addressing employer concerns.

Second, we question the concept of having employers "certify" that graduates are deficient in certain entry level employment skills. If the State Board is required to set a standard for entry level qualifications how can they apply to all situations? Are entry level qualifications really the same at fast food restaurants, hospitals, engineering firms, newspapers, etc.?

Third, because we have no idea how many graduates might be affected by this act, we have no idea how much work will be required by the state board to process these individuals, to provide them with assessments, to design skills improvement program, or to determine how many such programs will be offered and where.

Fourth, the concept of charging school districts to remediate their deficient graduates will simply reduce the resources available for students still in school. This action does not penalize those responsible for the district's educational program; it penalizes those who are receiving the benefits of that educational program.

In conclusion, we believe S.B. 467 is an inappropriate response to the goal of education reform. Upon close examination, it may do more harm than good.

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