

Approved: 2-9-95
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kent Glasscock at 1:30 p.m. on February 7, 1995 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Gwen Welshimer - Excused

Committee staff present: Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Fulva Seufert, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Rep. Ted Powers
Don Moler, General Counsel-League of Kansas Municipalities
Bill Curtis, Assistant Executive Director-Kansas Association of
School Boards
Tom Wilder, Kansas Insurance Department

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Kent Glasscock opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. The minutes of the February 2, 1995 meeting were distributed. Rep. Sloan moved that the minutes be approved. Rep. Feuerborn seconded. Motion passed.

HB 2224: An Act concerning local governments; relating to health care benefits plan; providing for spouse; amending K.S.A. 12-5040 and repealing the existing section.

The Chairman announced that the first order of business was the public hearing on **HB 2224**. The first conferee was Rep. Ted Powers who drafted the bill. Rep. Powers said that the bill concerns coverage under the employee group health care benefits plan. It specifically addresses the spouse of a retired employee until such spouse has attained the age of 65, even though the retired employee has already attained 65. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Glasscock next introduced Mr. Don Moler, General Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities, who spoke in opposition to **HB 2224**. He opposes this modification to the existing statute because it places an increased burden on already strained local government budgets. (Attachment 2)

The Chairman introduced the third conferee, Mr. Bill Curtis, Assistant Executive Director of the Kansas Association of School Boards. He spoke in opposition to **HB 2224** in its present form because it imposes a requirement on local school boards to continue providing enrollment for the spouse of a retired employee in the group health care benefits plan. He suggested it would be more acceptable if several changes were made. (Attachment 3)

The Chairman called on Mr. Tom Wilder, Kansas Insurance Department, to explain about the state's new High Risk Plan for individuals who are unable to qualify for individual plans.

Chairman Glasscock announced that the hearings on **HB 2224** were closed

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m..

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 1995.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1995

NAME	REPRESENTING
Tom Wilder	Kan Dept of Insurance
Bill Curtis	Ks Assoc of School Bds
Chris Wilson	KS Governmental Consulting
Pat Baker	KASB
Kelly Ketterer	self

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE
EDUCATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TED POWERS

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February 7, 1995

To Local Government Committee

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Local Government Committee for considering HB-2224.

The bill concerns coverage under the employee group health care benefits plan for the spouse of a retired employee until such spouse has attained age 65, even though the retired employee has already attained 65.

Thanks!

Questions?....Make my day!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Powers".

House Local Government
2-7-95
Attachment 1



**League
of Kansas
Municipalities**

LEGAL DEPARTMENT · 112 S.W. 7TH TOPEKA, KS 66603 · TELEPHONE (913) 354-9565 · FAX (913) 354-4186

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

TO: House Local Government Committee

FROM: Don Moler, General Counsel

RE: Opposition to HB 2224

DATE: February 7, 1995

The League appreciates the opportunity to appear hear today in opposition to HB 2224. Specifically K.S.A. 12-5040 extends insurance benefits to retired former employees and their dependents for local governments which sponsor group health care benefit plans for their employees. This bill extends this coverage to spouses of retired employees until such spouse has attained age 65, even though the retired employee has already attained age 65.

We oppose this modification to the existing statute as it places an increased burden on already strained local government budgets and will continue to increase the upward spiral of health insurance costs for local governments in Kansas. It effectively places an additional mandate on the heads of local government officials in Kansas. We believe that if this is in fact a significant public policy choice for the State of Kansas, that the state should be willing to fund this program in its entirety. Perhaps these individuals could be placed on the state insurance plan rather than being placed on the individual insurance plans of local governments.

House Local Government
2-7-95
Attachment 2



Testimony on H.B. 2224

before the House Local Government Committee

presented by
Bill Curtis, Assistant Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 7, 1995

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we appreciate the opportunity to testify today on HB 2224. In its present form the Kansas Association of School Boards opposes the bill. It imposes a requirement on local school boards to continue providing enrollment for the spouse of a retired employee in the group health care benefits plan.

The bill would be more acceptable if several changes were made. On line 38, strike the word "shall" and insert the word "may". Clearly state that the premiums are the responsibility of the spouse. Require that the spouse has been a participant in the plan. Limit the time that the spouse can remain in the plan.