

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Alicia Salisbury at 11:00 a.m. on January 24, 1995 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Paul West, Legislative Research Department
Eric Milstead, Legislative Research Department
Tim Colton, Legislative Research Department
Don Cawby, Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Michael Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Administrative Assistant
Ronda Miller, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Sandy Praeger
Ron Green, Nancy Case and Joe Lawhon, Legislative Post Audit

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Praeger appeared before the Committee to offer a brief summary of and to request the introduction of bill draft 5 RS 0443. It was moved by Senator Morris and seconded by Senator Vancrum that bill draft 5 RS 0443 be introduced as requested by Senator Praeger. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Vice Chairperson Alicia Salisbury introduced Barbara Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, who, in turn, introduced members of the Post Audit staff who would present performance audit reports.

Ron Green, Legislative Post Audit, distributed and reviewed copies of the performance audit report "Reviewing Security and Management Issues At the Youth Center at Topeka" dated December, 1994. This report is on file with the Division of Post Audit. Mr. Green highlighted the five questions which were the focus of the audit and reviewed the conclusions and recommendations made by the audit team. Senator Salisbury asked whether funding for the recommendations made in response to the first question (pages 20 and 21 of the report) would solve the problems at the Youth Center at Topeka if the other problems cited in the report are not addressed. Mr. Green replied that there is no **one** solution to the problems -- the physical structure of the facility, management issues, and staffing issues have to be a part of the mix. He noted that it was his observation that the superintendent is taking a tougher approach to management issues and is trying to assure that employees are properly evaluated. In answer to a question, Mr. Green stated that the impediments to timely background checks are 1) YCAT making the requests on an immediate basis and 2) the response time from the KBI. It was stated that in an audit of the Sentencing Commission, the response time for a background check by the KBI could take 2-3 months. Senator Lawrence questioned whether there had been any study of the success of the drug and alcohol abuse programs. A representative from SRS responded that SRS had contracted with a private firm for a study which is not yet complete.

Nancy Case, Legislative Post Audit, appeared before the Committee to summarize the performance audit report "Verifying Information Provided by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services On Its Compliance with the Terms of the Foster Care Lawsuit Settlement Agreement -- Monitoring Report #1 Covering January - June 1994," dated October 1994. This report is on file with the Division of Legislative Post Audit. Following her review of the report, Ms. Case told members that the next monitoring report would cover the period of July 1994 through January 1995 and would be complete in May 1995. In response to Senator Karr, Ms. Case stated that anytime any element is in noncompliance, it is a failure and has to be reassessed for another six month period. If only one item of sixteen fails, that one has to be re-evaluated. She told members that there is a clause in the agreement that calls for one year of continuous compliance for most of the requirements. The requirement is spread over a four year period so the monitoring will cover at least

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four years. She stated that it is the intent of the process that a structure will be built into the Department of SRS to prevent reoccurrence of defects.

Joe Lawhon, Legislative Post Audit, presented an overview of the performance audit report "Reviewing Potential Duplication of Water Regulation Activities -- A K-Goal Audit of the Kansas Water Office, the Kansas Water Authority, and the Division of Water Resources," dated September 1994. This report is also on file in the Division of Post Audit. Senator Petty pointed out that the audit report did not address the number of entities that have a role in water regulation, and reminded members that this problem causes difficulty in obtaining a water permit. In answer to questions regarding consolidation, Mr. Lawhon stated that consolidation would be okay as long as the functions of all entities continue to occur. For example, the Kansas Water Office has the responsibility for planning and the Division of Water Resources approves the applications for water storage rights in the Small Lakes Program. Though these two entities could be merged, the audit team did not determine that the current arrangement is a problem. Senator Bogina pointed out that he believes that one operational function that could be duplicative is the GIS program, though GIS was not a part of the scope of this particular audit.

Chairman Bogina adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 1995.

