

Approved: 2/14/96
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Mason at 3:30 p.m. on January 31, 1996 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Bruce Larkin (absent)
Bob Tomlinson (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Department of Education
Beverly Renner, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Ralph Tanner
Representative JoAnn Pottorf
Jim Edwards, Kansas Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Dr. Robert Kelly, Kansas Independent College Association
Erin Appenfeller, Intern, Student-Kansas University

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Mason opened the hearing on **HB 2668** - concerning state educational institutions admission requirements.

Representative Tanner explained **HB 2668** and testified in support (Attachment 1). Kansas is the only state that does not have standards for admission to state supported colleges or universities. This bill would not only quality admissions for higher education but establish some academic rigor in a high school curriculum; would set some goals in high school years for students to achieve if they want to attend a Regent's school; students would arrive at college ready to learn college level work; and, attrition would be reduced in the failure and drop-out rate during the freshman year.

Representative Pottorf appeared in support of **HB 2668** (Attachment 2) and spoke of the merits of raising the level of expectations of high school graduates, by letting them know what is required of them upon their entrance into the university system.

Jim Edwards, Director, Chamber and Association Relations-Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry spoke in support of **HB 2668** (Attachment 3). This bill is a means of setting and communicating the standards expected of those planning to attend a Regent's university.

Dr. Robert Kelly, Executive Director-Kansas Independent College Association testified in support of **HB 2668** (Attachment 4). This bill should give high school students the incentive to complete a rigorous curriculum improving the caliber of graduates, aid in the transition from high school to college and increase the job skills of young Kansans.

The hearing was closed until tomorrow when an additional proponent and opponents will speak.

Representative Pettey moved for a bill introduction to provide a funding stream for early childhood educational programs. Representative Ballard seconded. Motion carried.

Representative Horst moved for committee introduction of a bill to exempt school districts from Health and Environment paper work. Representative Reardon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Representative Horst moved for committee introduction of a bill to expand the Kansas School Safety and Security Act to include misdemeanors that should be reported to law enforcement; report definitions and compilation. Representative Pettey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 519-S Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on January 31, 1996.

Representatives Shore, Reardon, Horst and Ballard requested information from legislative research, including: 1) peer university test scores, 2) graduation rates of peer universities, 3) drop out rate in regent's universities, community colleges and peer universities by gender and race, 4) Minority Student Scholarship Program Act requirements, 5) changes and experiences from other states with implementations, and 6) evidence of lowering of enrollment in remedial programs after qualified admissions.

Erin Appenfeller, Representative Ballard's Intern, a 3rd year Student from KU, made a statement in support of **HB 2668** with the stipulation that a score of 23 on ACT was very difficult to achieve.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 1996.

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 31, 1996

NAME	REPRESENTING
Stella Thurkell	KSNT TV
Judith Penrod Simina	KS Board of Regents
Katherine Wickert	United School Administrators
Grilla Highfill Scott	USA
Lashonda Ellington	Legislative Intern
Jon Edwards	KOOF
Mark Tallman	KASB
Kevin Powers	KASB
Susan Porter	KU
R. H.	TKS
Jim Zele	BdE
Craig Grant	KNEA
Sue Chase	KUFA
Dave DeLee	KS Council on Vocational Educ.
Oran C. Burnett	USD 501#
David J. Moniel	Washburn University
Jim Campbell	Intern
William Reed	KS Independent Colleges
John Freeman	KASB
Gerald Anderson	USA/KS
Nerise Ayl	USA
Jon Josselyn	KU
Jacque Dukes	SQE

STATE OF KANSAS

TOPEKA ADDRESS:
STATE CAPITOL—181-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
913) 296-7660
BALDWIN CITY ADDRESS:
1201 NINTH ST.
BALDWIN CITY, KANSAS 66006
913) 594-3502



THE CAPITOL

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

RALPH M. TANNER
DISTRICT 10

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER EDUCATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION &
ELECTIONS
VICE CHAIR SELECT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER
EDUCATION
TOPEKA HOTLINE
DURING SESSION · 1-800-432-3924

TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION -- HB2668

January 31, 1996

QUALIFIED ADMISSIONS

The subject matter of the measure before us today has a long and checkered history in this legislature. Since 1915, as best I can determine, Kansans have held that their youth could attend a state supported college or university upon completion of a four-year course of study.

On eight or more occasions, the legislature has sought to raise the standards for admissions to little avail. In 1990, 1991, 1993, and 1996 separate bills to accomplish this have been introduced. On two occasions, repealers of the early statute was attempted. Attempts have been made to amend the matter into another bill. Yet here am I.

Characteristics of the Bill:

HB2668 is a measure designed to require that certain credentials be held by candidates for admissions to the Regent's Universities in the state. For a great number of years, admission

House Education
1/31/96
Attachment 1

to state-supported universities has been viewed as a birthright of Kansas youth.

Over the recent past, the matter of qualified admissions has been before the state legislature a number of times. In some of those instances, the Board of Regents and the universities have openly advocated passage of the bill. In other years, for whatever reason, they have been somewhat silent.

Two years ago, a rather strong push for passage of a bill emerged, only to fail in the House of Representatives by a vote of 61-61. This year, for reasons that will be made clear, I decided to bring back the bill that was last before us, with an eye toward passage.

Qualifications included in this bill are:

Graduation from a state-accredited high school with a 2.0 average on a 4.0 scale in a pre-college curriculum prescribed by the Board of Regents, unless the student is from out of state, in which case the high school grade point average must be 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale; or, a comp score on the ACT test of 23 or better; or, graduation in the top one-third of the class; or, a score of 50 or better on the GED test; or, if the applicant does not qualify by any of the above criteria, the university may admit the student under a category that allows enrollment of a ~~a~~ number equivalent to ten percent of the freshman class; or, if the student is over twenty-one years of age, he or she may enter

without any of the foregoing criteria.

The pre-college curriculum to be established by the Board of Regents should include, but not be limited to four units of English, three units of mathematics, three units of social studies, three units of natural science, and two units of a foreign language or one unit of a foreign language and one unit ✓ in the field of computer technology which is designed for computer literacy.

When a Kansas high school is not organized along the traditional lines of Carnegie Units, the Board of Regents shall determine equivalent standards for applicants from such schools.

Rationale for the Qualified Admissions bill:

1. Would establish some more academic rigor in a high school curriculum. A pre-college curriculum would be established by the Board of Regents. This should begin to deal with the suggestion that a high school diploma is meaningless.

2. Would set some goals in the high school years for students to achieve if they want to attend a Regent's school. I firmly believe that students (young people) will fulfill reasonable expectations if the reward is worth the taking. The operable thesis here is that admission to college -- even a state school supported by taxes -- is not a right, but is a privilege to be earned.

3. Would enhance the academic "tone" of the Regents schools. Students would arrive at college ready to learn college level

work. Would eliminate the need for remedial (high school) courses to be taught in college. In the academic year 1988-89, the last year for which I have data on remedial courses, 7235 students were enrolled in high school level work. The cost in General Use funds (primarily state general fund dollars) was \$539,491.

4. Would place a different perspective on attrition. In 1993 -- the latest year for which I have data -- attrition for the Regent's schools in the freshman year ranged as follows: 25.1%, 25.7%, 39.3%, 33.3%, 30.9%, and 32.4%. Students in these percentages were enrolled for twelve or more hours. Two thousand six hundred and twenty eight (2628) students who enrolled as freshmen in the fall of 1993 were not there to enroll in the fall of 1994. How much was the economic cost of this failure or drop-out rate? It is very difficult for me to count the cost, either to the state, or to the person paying the tuition and other costs for the students. But please remember, the tuition paid by the student or their parents represents somewhat less than half of the cost of operating the university. The other cost is borne by the state general fund. At a time of fund shortages, can we afford the luxury of a failure or drop-out rate so high? For the sake of an estimate of the loss on this attrition factor, might we assume that each drop-out or flunk-out represents a loss of \$1000.00. Such an assumption reveals an unforgivable waste of state resources of over two and one-half million dollars general fund. How do we count the loss to parents, and, indeed, to the students

themselves. If these students, or some of them, are in college on borrowed money, the money can eventually be repaid. But the broken spirit will very likely be slow to mend.

JO ANN POTTORFF
 REPRESENTATIVE, EIGHTY-THIRD DISTRICT
 6321 E 8TH STREET
 WICHITA, KANSAS 67208-3611

STATE CAPITOL
 ROOM 183-W
 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
 (913) 296-7501



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill 2668
 QUALIFIED ADMISSIONS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIRMAN SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENTAL
 DISABILITIES
 MEMBER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 TAXATION
 TRANSPORTATION
 NCSL ASSEMBLY ON FEDERAL ISSUES
 EDUCATION & WORK FORCE TRAINING
 COMMITTEE

A qualified admissions policy allows for a minimum educational standard set for those who wish to attend Kansas' Universities. Kansas should be number one in education, and one way to achieve that goal is through qualified admissions. I believe students tend to rise or sink to the level of expectations set for them. Qualified admissions will raise the level of expectations of our high school graduates. By raising the level of expectations, a student's performance will not only improve, but the quality of education in primary and secondary schools will also improve.

The proposed bill allows for numerous ways a student can meet the requirements to attend Kansas' universities provided the student completes the required course work in addition to one of the following: A minimum GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale, or a minimum of 23 on the ACT, or to achieve 50 points or above on the GED. In addition to these opportunities the proposed bill also allows for a 10% window in which universities can use their own admissions discretion for extenuating circumstances.

Recently studies have suggested that American students have trailed their foreign peers in almost every category of learning. Their test scores are down, and there seems to be a lack of motivation among many students to achieve academically. Many employers have suggested that their employees who have recently graduated from high school have not been qualified for entry level positions. An open admissions policy does not allow us to be fair to our youngsters. By telling them that they are adequately prepared to attend college just because they graduate from high school is not being completely honest with them. The truth is that SAT scores are down and college professors are reporting little if any

House Education
 1/31/96
 Attachment 2

Improvement in the quality of incoming freshmen. A qualified admissions policy will be honest with our students by letting them know the expectation we require of them upon their entrance into the university system.

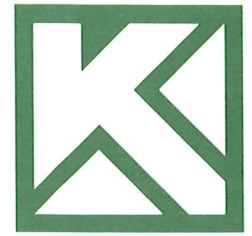
A qualified admissions policy will challenge the students and their respective schools to achieve higher scholastic levels. It will provide a bridge between the university, primary, and secondary school systems in that they all will be working together to expect and receive the best of its students.

Not only will a qualified admissions policy raise the level of expectations among educators and students, but it will also be an economic advantage for the state. According to enrollment studies and financial estimates from the Kansas Board of Regents freshmen who either drop out or flunk out cost the state over \$16 million a year. In addition to the attrition costs the current open admissions policy also provides an additional cost to Regents schools because they have to provide remedial classes for students who are not adequately prepared for college level courses.

A qualified admissions policy strives to make Kansas' education system number one. It expects more out of the students and the schools therefore motivating them both to achieve higher levels of success.

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry



835 SW Topeka Blvd. Topeka, Kansas 66612-1671 (913) 357-6321 FAX (913) 357-4732
HB 2668

January 31, 1996

KANSAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Testimony Before the
House Education Committee

by
Jim Edwards
Director, Chamber and Association Relations

Chairman Mason and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and express KCCI's support for HB 2668, a bill that would set forth criteria to be attained before a student would be granted admissions to any of Kansas' Regents' institutions.

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 46% of KCCI's members having less than 25 employees, and 77% 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.

As Regents' institutions become more streamlined to address the needs of the total student population as well as the concern to save dollars when needed, certain methods of operations should be given careful consideration. One of these would be the implementation of a system which would establish criteria to be used for admissions.

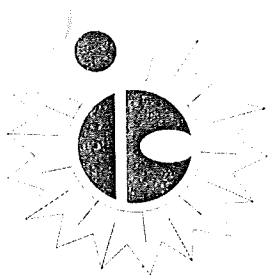
House Education
1/31/96
Attachment 3

As soon as this is said, red flags go up in many persons' minds. The two main red flags usually are: 1) as long as a person is a taxpayer of the state, their son or daughter should be restricted from attending for any reason, and/or 2) this will prohibit the "late bloomers" from attending.

Well, the red flags that are discussed above are readily addressed by HB 2668. Almost everyone that is a resident of the state and has used their high school time to strive for excellence will be able to attend. Those who are late bloomers could still go with the provision that would allow any state resident over 21 with a high school diploma to attend.

Most everyone, whether proponents or opponents to this concept would agree on one thing and that is that when standards are set and clearly communicated, most students will strive to achieve those standards. The bill you have in front of you today is a means of setting and communicating the standards expected of those planning on attending a Regents' university. That is the bottom line.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. I would be pleased to appear before you at a later date for questions.



Memorandum

KANSAS INDEPENDENT COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

515 Capitol Federal Building, 700 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66603-3823
Telephone (913) 235-9877 • Fax (913) 235-1437

ROBERT N. KELLY, *Executive Director*

Kansas Independent College Association
Testimony Before the House Education Committee on HB2668
January 31, 1996

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Our Association has testified numerous times in favor of the philosophy embodied in HB 2668, namely that Kansas high school students should be given incentives to complete a rigorous curriculum. In our opinion, providing such incentives will improve the caliber of high school graduates aiding the transition from high school to college and increasing the job skills of young Kansans. The vast majority of parents want their children to attend and complete college. Directing these students toward a rigorous curriculum can only help the state's future growth.

As for the details of the bill, we have no position. Outside of encouraging students to take a rigorous curriculum, we believe that items such as test scores, content of curriculum, the state universities involved, and the exemptions allowed are beyond our purview.

House Education
1/31/96
Attachment 4