

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SENATE WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on January 19, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Jim Barone - excused
Senator Paul Feleciano - excused
Senator Nick Jordan - excused
Senator Dave Kerr - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amory Lovin, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Assistant Revisor, Revisor of Statutes Office
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Julie Weber, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Michael Byington, Envision
Senator Lana Oleen

Others attending: See attached guest list

Chairman Morris mentioned that there will be hearings on **SB 18** and **SB 31**.

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

SB 18 - Grants from the juvenile justice authority for juvenile justice program may be for a two year cycle beginning fiscal year 2003

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

There were no conferees.

Mr. Ken Hales, Juvenile Justice Authority responded to several questions from the Committee. Mr. Hales mentioned that many of the administrative counties sub-grant their programs like the prevention programs and that the bill's current language would not change the nature of those sub-grants. The decision of sub-grants being annual or biennial is made by the local counties.

The Chairman closed the public hearing on the bill.

Senator Huelskamp moved, with a second by Senator Salmans, to amend SB 18 and place the appropriate language in the bill to specify that everything is subject to appropriations. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Adkins moved, with a second by Senator Downey, to report SB 18 favorably as amended. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

SB 31 - SRS oversight committee; creation of

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Proponents:

Chairman Morris welcomed Michael Byington, Director, Envision Governmental Affairs Office. Mr. Byington spoke in support of **SB 31** and explained a proposed amendment as stated in his testimony (Attachment 1). Committee questions and discussion followed. The Chairman thanked Mr. Byington for appearing before the Committee.

The Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 31**.

Chairman Morris welcomed Senator Oleen who spoke regarding **SB 18** which the Committee had just passed. Senator Oleen mentioned that, as a member of the Joint Meeting on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight and along with Representative Shari Weber, also a member of that committee, she was pleased that the Committee had come to a decision to pass the bill. Senator Oleen mentioned that the planning councils really felt the two-year cycle would allow better planning. The Juvenile Justice Authority would still have the ability to monitor, but would have less paperwork. Senator Oleen mentioned that she had very positive input from the community on how the Juvenile Justice Authority is working with them. She mentioned that there was unanimous support of the Joint Committee concerning the bill. (No written testimony was provided.)

Chairman Morris called the Committee's attention back to discussion of **SB 31**. The Chairman requested that Staff come up with a chart to compare the interim committees that have similar subject areas and what their actual charges are and to discuss this more. Senator Huelskamp asked that the chart include how many days the committees met and how much time was spent in meetings. The Chairman mentioned that he will hold the bill for Staff to compile the requested information.

Chairman Morris called the Committee's attention to discussion of:

SB 15 - Remittance of state moneys to the state treasurer

Chairman Morris mentioned that, if changes need to be made to include or exclude anyone regarding this bill, there could be a trailer bill to do that.

Senator Adkins moved, with a second by Senator Downey, to report **SB 15** favorably. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Bill Introduction

Senator Adkins moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to introduce a bill (1rs0328) concerning docket fees, relating to compensation for certain nonjudicial employees in the judicial branch. Motion carried by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2001.

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January 19, 2001

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Senate Bill 31

I appear in support of this bill. I do so, however, with a proposed amendment.

At page three, line four, I propose that the following new (4) be added:

"The SRS Oversight Committee shall monitor, review, and make recommendations relating to (A) the alignment and structure of social and rehabilitation services divisions and units within the department, and (B) whether certain divisions and units of government within social and rehabilitation services would operate more effectively and efficiently if transferred to other departments or units of government."

The existing (4) would then become (5), and the existing (5) would become (6).

In the 1995 Session of the Kansas Legislature, then SRS Secretary Rochelle Chronister guided legislation through the process which removed a great deal of Legislative oversight from the responsibility of the Kansas Legislature, transferring it to the SRS Secretary. Chronister first introduced the measure giving her much greater authority to organize the Department and define its parameters as she chose, as a freestanding measure. Some human services advocates opposed this measure because they suggested it would remove too much control and authority from elected officials and transfer same to appointed officials. The measure was defeated soundly in the House. Chronister then, as legislative processes often travel, incorporated about three fourths of the same authority in one of those catch-all bills which slide through the

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Attachment 1

Legislature at the very last of the session, and in this manner the authority she wanted to be transferred to her indeed became within her purview.

Some of the shifting of responsibilities Chronister requested and received in 1995 was probably appropriate. The statutes which were eliminated by the legislation she fostered were extremely tedious. They had been written largely by Dr. Robert C. Harder in one of his more detail-oriented interactions with the Legislature.

The SRS Transition Oversight Committee, however, was a reasonable measure to indeed insure Legislative branch monitoring and oversight of sweeping changes being made by Executive branch appointees in the scope and structure of SRS and the Department of Aging.

The question at this point is one of whether the job is done or needs to continue for a little longer. I would come down firmly on the side of those who suggest that the job, and the oversight functions of the Committee, need to continue. I would also come down on the side of those who suggest that more than just measures currently in "transition" need to be monitored.

The reason for the proposed amendment is that the present drafting of Senate Bill 31 leaves out some important considerations. Are we really sure that privatization is the only, or always most appropriate means, for consideration of downsizing or right-sizing SRS? Are we absolutely sure that the transfer of numerous programs several years ago from SRS to the Department of Aging are the only programs which ever need to come out of SRS and move to other State departments or units of government? I believe that while the Committee is considering privatization and considering services which have already been moved out of SRS to other departments, that it is also quite appropriate for it to look at other possible governmental realignment.

I am aware of several coalitions of service consumers who are going to soon bring measures to the Kansas Legislature to move various services from SRS to other State departments, or to in other ways realign the structure of state human services delivery. My interest in this issue is driven by the fact that a coalition of organizations representing blind and visually impaired citizens are one such group. Now it may be that all of the measures brought by these groups will sail through the Kansas Legislature making multiple adjustments to SRS without the Legislature feeling that a certain degree of oversight on such issues is necessary. That strikes me as rather doubtful, however. It is more likely that some of the measures will pass and some will not. In either case, the issue of governmental structure and alignment of SRS programs continues to be an important issues with a number of groups of Kansas consumers, and it is an issue which would be quite appropriate for the SRS Oversight Committee to continue to address.