

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Melvin Neufeld at 9:00 a.m. on April 30, 2003, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Jerry Henry, Excused
Representative Rocky Nichols, Excused

Committee staff present: J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research Department
Nicoletta Buonasera, Legislative Research Department
Becky Krahl, Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research Department
Leah Robinson, Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Administrative Analyst
Shirley Jepson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Janet Chubb, Assistant Secretary of State
Nancy Byrant, Secretary of State's Office

Others attending: See attached

- Attachment 1 - Written testimony of Janet Chubb, Assistant Secretary of State

Hearing on SB 195 - Kansas Parole Board; membership reduced to three.

Nicoletta Buonasera, Legislative Research Department, explained that **SB 195** reduces the size of the Kansas Parole Board from four members to three members. Since the passage of sentencing guidelines in 1993, there has been a declining workload for the Board. It was felt this is a move toward more efficient government. The reduction has been reflected in the FY 2004 budget.

There were no proponents or opponents to come before the Committee.

The hearing on **SB 195** was closed.

Representative Feuerborn moved to pass SB 195 favorably. The motion was seconded by Representative Osborne. The motion carried.

Hearing on SB 239 - Secretary of state fees for certain services and publications.

Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department, explained that **SB 239** changes the name of the Secretary of State's information and copy services fee fund to informational fee fund and allows the Secretary of State (SOS) to charge a fee for certain publications and credit it to the fee fund.

The Chair recognized Janet Chubb, Assistant Secretary of State, who provided written testimony as a proponent for **SB 239** (Attachment 1). Ms. Chubb stated that the SOS budget from the State General Fund (SGF) has been cut by \$800,000 for FY 2004 and eliminated from the SGF in FY 2005. The agency felt this legislation is a way to fund their budget. Nancy Byrant, Secretary of State's Chief of Staff, stated that the agency expects to collect approximately \$780,000 in fees in FY 2004. Ms. Bryant stated that the agency will continue to review the fees and anticipates raising approximately \$1 million by FY 2005. The agency indicated that an index will be made available containing items which are available on the internet, items that are free-of-charge and the fee to be charged for other items.

The hearing on **SB 239** was closed.

The Committee voiced concern that legislators should have free access to any information in order to answer questions from their constituents. Other legislation may be pursued to maintain free access for legislators.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS at 9:00 a.m. on April 30, 2003, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

Representative Pottorff moved to pass SB 239 favorably. The motion was seconded by Representative Bethell. The motion carried.

Hearing on HB 2457 - Senior Pharmacy Assistance Program.

Audrey Nogle, Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2457** adjusted the requirements for the Senior Pharmacy Assistance Program which is funded from the senior services fund. This legislation would allow the agency to access additional federal funds through a waiver. The agency would be able to access an additional \$1.8 million, making the program total about \$4 million. Eligibility requirements would be adjusted from age 67 to 65; income eligibility would be increased from 150% to 200% of poverty; an exception would be added for financial hardship and a requirement that the client cannot cancel insurance for pharmacy within six months of applying for this program. It also eliminates the limitation for certain maintenance drugs, the 30% co-pay and \$1,200 maximum payment. Responding to a question from the Committee, Ms. Nogle stated that there are no changes to the federal program at this time.

There were no proponents or opponents to come before the Committee.

The hearing on **HB 2457** was closed.

Representative Gatewood moved that SB268 be amended to delete the current provisions, the provisions of HB 2457 be inserted and that SB 268 be recommended for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Bethell. The motion carried.

The Chair asked the Committee to review the Committee minutes of January 24, January 28, February 6, February 11, February 12, February 13, February 17, February 18, February 19, February 20, February 21, February 24, March 13, March 14, March 17, March 18, 2003, for approval at the next meeting on May 1, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on May 1, 2003.



Melvin Neufeld, Chair

House Appropriations Committee
Secretary of State – Testimony on SB 239
May Day 2003

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 239.

This January, upon delivery of the governor's budget, the Secretary of State became aware our status as a primarily fee-funded agency is to occur in the present rather than in the future tense. The governor recommends elimination of \$800,000 SGF from our 2004 budget and elimination of all SGF, or \$1.7 million, from our 2005 budget. Because the SGF appropriation has been approximately one-half of our yearly budget, this action could paralyze our ability to serve the citizens of Kansas.

For that reason, over the past four months now we have re-examined the office's publications and services, along with their statutory provisions and fees, in order to propose a series of amendments that will allow us to continue to provide the quality service our customers expect. SB 239 in its current form contains one of those amendments. It would amend the name of our *information and copy service fee fund* to the *information and services fee fund* and authorize us to charge an information and services fee.

This amendment will give us the latitude to apply customer fees throughout agency operations and to maintain citizen service without the traditional SGF funds. SB 239 would be effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*, because we must begin to recover the loss of SGF as soon as possible.

SB 239 also would move the proviso concerning the franchise fee recovery fund to Kansas statute. There is no change proposed for the fee.

*Testimony by Janet Chubb
Assistant Secretary of State*

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

DATE 4-30-2003
ATTACHMENT 1