

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:36 p.m. on March 6, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research  
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Paul West, Legislative Research  
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Lynn Rogers, Wichita School Board Member  
Mr. Steve Pummel, Superintendent, Atchison  
Lee Alderman, Flint Hills District, Emporia

Others attending: See Attached list

**SB 7-Technical Colleges; governing body**

Chairman Umbarger stated that various entities have been working to come to an agreement on **SB7** so the bill can be advanced. Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes, advised that the bill was recommended for introduction by LEPC and requested by the State Board of Regents and it involves technical colleges and their governing boards. **SB7** provides that on or before July 1st, 2005 that the governing boards of all technical colleges shall develop and present to the State Board of Regents a plan to replace the existing governing body with a new governing board, which shall be separate and independent of any board of education of any school district. Theresa explained several amendments proposed by the various entities affected by the bill. (Attachment 1) Discussion followed with disagreement on the interpretation of the word "single" being inserted on page 2, line 5. Also, in the new Section 2, Senator Vratil offered new language to make the intent clearer. (Attachment 2)

Mr Lynn Rogers, member of the Wichita School District Board, advised that Wichita has studied this issue through a task force study. **SB7** does nothing in terms of the current "crazy quilt" technical college systems, it does nothing about the post secondary clock hours, does not help to establish a rapid response work force development, does not allow input from technical colleges without taxing authority, does nothing to allow other taxing authorities input on adding another taxing authority, does nothing about current bonded indebtedness, does nothing to assure tenured staff we want them or need them and does nothing to address fundamental flaws in the technical education system. The board does agree with the importance of accreditation. The board believes that **SB7** needs more study and requests that the Committee table **SB7** and they are asking for a statewide interim study on technical colleges. Senator Umbarger requested written testimony from Mr. Rogers which was provided and distributed to Committee. (Attachment 3). Discussion followed Mr. Roger's testimony.

Mr. Steve Pummel, Superintendent, Atchison provided testimony stating that they are starting two new programs with local grants and some state money. Their board of education sees the technical college as part of the K-12 system, they have known the college as long as it has been there, they have been there since the facility was built, the board is passionate and understands, they know technical education as well as anyone here, the school is well run, they provide programs that directly affect the community and they have great support. They believe the legislation is moving too quickly and that there are still questions that need to be answered. The Atchison Board of Education, believes that **SB7** needs more study, examination, and individual school analysis to determine the best governance structure. They request more time and study to determine the impact that this legislation may have on the Northeast Kansas Technical College. (Attachment 4)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:36 p.m. on March 6, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Lee Alderman, President of Flint Hills Technical College, Emporia believes that **SB7** would allow implementation of a more seamless system of higher education and could provide widespread benefits to many Kansans as they are vital contributors to economic and workforce development in the state. In light of the budgetary constraints and with the passage of **SB7**, they encourage consideration of giving local levy authority to technical colleges once they become autonomous. (Attachment 5)

Chairman Umbarger will schedule **SB7** again early next week for continued discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123S.



**Senate Bill No. 7**

AN ACT concerning technical colleges; relating to the governing body thereof; amending K.S.A. 72-4470 and repealing the existing section.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. K.S.A. 72-4470 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-4470. (a) *Subject to the provisions of section 2, and amendments thereto*, the governing body of a technical college shall be the board of the former area vocational school or the board of control of the former area vocational-technical school, whichever is applicable. Such board or board of control shall operate, control and manage a technical college in the same manner and to the same extent that was provided by law for the operation, management and control of the former area vocational school or area vocational-technical school and nothing in this act shall be applied or construed in any manner so as to change or affect any power, duty or function of a board or board of control with respect to such operation, management and control.

(b) The board or board of control of a technical college, in addition to such powers expressly granted by law and subject to rules and regulations of the state board of regents, is hereby granted the following powers:

- (1) To determine the vocational technology, and general education courses of instruction that will comprise the associate of applied science degree program of the college;
- (2) to establish the requirements for satisfactory completion of the associate of applied science degree programs of the college;
- (3) to confer the associate of applied science degree upon students who successfully complete an associate of applied science degree program of the college and to award a certificate of diploma to students who successfully complete a vocational education program of the college;  
*and*
- (4) to appoint teaching staff and to fix and determine teacher qualifications, duties and compensation. No teacher appointed to teach course comprising the associate of applied science degree programs of the college shall be required to meet certification requirements greater than those required in the state educational institutions.

(c) *the provisions of this section shall expire on June 30, 2005.*

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New Sec. 2. (a) On or before July 1, 2005, all technical college boards shall develop and present to the state board of regents a plan to replace the governing body described in K.S.A. 72-4470, and amendments thereto, with a new governing board, which shall be separate and independent of any board of education of any school district, to operate, control and manage the technical college. The plan shall provide:

- (1) The composition of the independent governing board;
- (2) The territory of the technical college;
- (3) The method of election or appointment and the terms of services of the members of the independent governing board;
- (4) The date upon which the independent governing board shall assume management and control of the technical college; and
- (5) The manner, terms upon which and extent to which the facilities, faculty, employees and students of the technical college will be transferred to the independent governing board.

(b) Upon approval of the plan by the state board of regents, and on the date determined in the approved plan, the independent governing board established under subsection (a) of this section shall operate subject to the rules, regulations and supervision of the state board of regents in the same manner as other technical colleges, technical schools and area vocational technical schools.

(c) In addition to such powers expressly granted by law and subject to the provisions of subsection (b), the governing body shall have the power to:

- (1) Determine the vocational, technology and general education courses of instruction that will comprise the associate of applied science degree programs of the college;
- (2) establish the requirements for satisfactory completion of the associate of applied science degree programs of the college;
- (3) confer the associate of applied science degree upon students who successfully complete an associate of applied science degree program of the college and to award a certificate or diploma to students who successfully complete a vocational education program of the college; and
- (4) appoint teaching staff to fix and determine teacher qualifications, duties and compensation. No teacher appointed to teach courses comprising the associate of applied science degree programs of the college shall be required to meet certification requirements greater than those required in the state educational institutions.

Section 3. K.S.A. 72-4470 is hereby repealed.

Section 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

Proposed new first sentence for subsection (b):

- (b) The plan that is approved by the state board of regents shall be agreed to between the technical college board that presents the plan and the state board of regents before it is approved by the state board of regents.

1 New Sec. 2. (a) On or before July 1, 2005, all technical college boards  
 2 shall develop and present to the state board of regents a plan to replace  
 3 the governing body described in K.S.A. 72-4470, and amendments  
 4 thereto, with a new governing board, which shall be separate and inde-  
 5 pendent of any board of education of any school district, to operate, control and manage the technical college. The plan shall provide:

single

*Dr. Dunn*

- 6 (1) The composition of the independent governing board;
- 7 (2) the territory of the technical college;
- 8 ~~(3) the method of election or appointment and the terms of service~~  
 9 ~~of the members of the independent governing board;~~
- 10 (4) the date upon which the independent governing board shall as-  
 11 sume management and control of the technical college; and
- 12 (5) the manner, terms upon which and extent to which the facilities,  
 13 faculty, employees and students of the technical college will be trans-  
 14 ferred to the independent governing board.

(3) the method of selection of members of the independent governing board and the terms of such members;

15  
 16 (b) Upon approval of the plan by the state board of regents, and on  
 17 the date determined in the approved plan, the independent governing  
 18 board established under subsection (a) of this section shall operate subject  
 19 to the rules, regulations and supervision of the state board of regents in  
 20 the same manner as other technical colleges, technical schools and area  
 21 vocational technical schools.

22 (c) In addition to such other powers expressly granted by law and  
 23 subject to the provisions of subsection (b), the governing board shall have  
 24 the power to:

- 25 (1) Determine the vocational, technology and general education  
 26 courses of instruction that will comprise the associate of applied science  
 27 degree programs of the college;
- 28 (2) establish the requirements for satisfactory completion of the as-  
 29 sociate of applied science degree programs of the college;
- 30 (3) confer the associate of applied science degree upon students who  
 31 successfully complete an associate of applied science degree program of  
 32 the college and to award a certificate or diploma to students who suc-  
 33 cessfully complete a vocational education program of the college; and
- 34 (4) appoint teaching staff and to fix and determine teacher qualifi-  
 35 cations, duties and compensation. No teacher appointed to teach courses  
 36 comprising the associate of applied science degree programs of the col-  
 37 lege shall be required to meet certification requirements greater than  
 38 those required in the state educational institutions.

Insert attached New Sections

39 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 72-4470 is hereby repealed.  
 40 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
 41 publication in the statute book.

42  
43

## Proposed Amendment to SB 7

On page 2, in line 5, before "school", by inserting "single"; by striking all in lines 9 and 10 and inserting:

"(3) the method of selection of members of the independent governing board and the terms of office of such members.";

Also on page 2, following line 38, by inserting:

"New Sec. 3. As used in this section through section 6, and amendments thereto:

(a) "Board" means the governing board of a technical college established pursuant to section 2, and amendments thereto.

(b) "Unconditionally authorized to make a tax levy" means that the board has adopted a resolution under section 4, and amendments thereto, has published the same, and either that such resolution was not protested or that it was protested and an election was held by which the tax levy was approved.

(c) "Territory" or "territory of the technical college" means the territory of the technical college as described in the plan approved pursuant to section 2, and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 4. (a) The board may make an annual tax levy for a period of not to exceed five years of not to exceed two mills upon all taxable tangible property within the territory of the technical college for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, repair, remodeling, additions to, furnishing and equipping of buildings, architectural expenses incidental thereto and the acquisition of real property for use as building sites or for educational programs. No levy shall be made under this section until a resolution authorizing the levy is passed by the board and published once each week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in the territory of the technical college. The resolution shall specify the mill rate of the tax levy and the period of time for which the tax levy shall be made under authority thereof. After adoption of the resolution, the levy may be made unless, within 60 days following the last publication of the resolution, a petition in opposition



to the levy, signed by not less than 5% of the qualified electors of such territory, is filed with the county election officer of the county in which the main campus of the technical college is located. If a petition is filed, the levy shall not be made unless the question has been submitted to and approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the territory of the technical college voting at an election called for that purpose or at the next general election. If a petition is filed and no election is held, a new resolution authorizing a levy for the purposes specified in this section may not be adopted for a period of one year after the filing of the petition.

(b) Whenever an initial resolution has been adopted under subsection (a) and the resolution specified a lesser mill rate than two mills, the board may adopt a second resolution under the same procedure as is provided in subsection (a) for the initial resolution and, subject to the same conditions and for the same purposes as provided in subsection (a), shall be authorized to make an additional tax levy in an amount to be specified in the second resolution for the remainder of the period of time specified in the initial resolution for the making of the levy under authority thereof. Any second resolution shall be limited in an amount as specified in subsection (a), less such amount as was authorized in the initial resolution, and not to exceed an aggregate amount of two mills in any one year. If any such resolution is adopted and the tax levy therein specified is authorized under the conditions specified in subsection (a), the amount of bonds which may be issued under section 5, and amendments thereto, may be increased accordingly.

(c) The board which has made a tax levy under this section may initiate, at any time after the final levy is certified to the county clerk under any current authorization, procedures to renew its authority to make a like annual tax levy in the amount, upon the conditions and in the manner specified in subsection (a).

New Sec. 5. There is hereby established in every technical



college of the state a fund which shall be called the capital outlay fund. Such fund shall consist of all moneys deposited therein in accordance with law. The proceeds of any tax levied under section 4, and amendments thereto, shall be deposited in the capital outlay fund of the technical college making such levy. Any proceeds derived from the sale of oil or gas or other minerals by a technical college may be deposited in the capital outlay fund of the technical college. To the extent that any other statute conflicts with this section, this section shall control.

New Sec. 6. (a) Any moneys in the capital outlay fund of any technical college and any moneys received from issuance of bonds under this section may be used for the purposes specified in section 4, and amendments thereto. The board which is unconditionally authorized to make a tax levy in lieu of making all or part of such tax levy, may issue and sell general obligation bonds. Such bonds shall be issued in the manner provided by the general bond law. Such bonds shall be issued to mature in not more than five years. No election shall be required to issue such bonds. If bonds are issued under authority of this section, the amount of such bonds which may be issued shall be determined as follows:

(1) The amount of such bonds shall not exceed the amount of the product which results from multiplying the remaining number of years provided in the resolution authorizing the capital outlay fund tax levy and adopted under section 4, and amendments thereto, times the mill rate provided in the resolution times the assessed valuation of the taxable tangible property within the territory of the technical college at the time the bonds are issued, less the sum of all amounts specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection.

(2) The maximum amount of bonds authorized by this section to be issued shall be reduced by all amounts which have been or will be received by such technical college from any tax levy made under authority of the resolution prior to the issuance of such

bonds. The maximum amount shall be reduced further by the estimated amount of interest to be paid on such bonds.

(3) The maximum amount of bonds authorized by this section to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the amount of unpaid principal on bonds which have theretofore been issued under this section.

(b) Bonds issued under the authority conferred by this section by the board shall not be subject to or within any bonded debt limitation prescribed by law and, in determining the amount of bonded indebtedness of any such technical college in applying any such bonded debt limitation, bonds issued under this section shall not be considered.

New Sec. 7. If any technical college is unconditionally authorized to make a tax levy, but the board chooses, in any year, not to make the levy, or chooses to make a lesser levy than authorized, the board may do so. If the board refrains from making a levy in any one or more years or from making the full levy which it is authorized to make under section 4, and amendments thereto, and the resolution adopted thereunder, the authority of the technical college to make a tax levy under section 4, and amendments thereto, shall not be extended beyond the period of time specified in the resolution, nor shall the mill rate of the tax levy authorized for any succeeding year be increased thereby.";

By renumbering sections 3 and 4 as sections 8 and 9, respectively;

In the title, in line 10, following the semicolon, by inserting "relating to capital expenditures and the financing thereof;"

New Sec. 2. (a) On or before July 1, 2005, all technical college boards shall develop and present to the state board of regents a plan to replace the governing body described in K.S.A. 72-4470, and amendments thereto, with a new governing board, which shall be separate and independent of any board of education of any school district, to operate, control and manage the technical college. The plan shall provide:

- (1) The composition of the independent governing board;
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  - (4) The date upon which the independent governing board shall assume management and control of the technical college; and
  - (5) The manner, terms upon which and extent to which the facilities, faculty, employees and students of the technical college will be transferred to the independent governing board.
- (b) ~~Upon approval of the plan by the state board of regents, and on the date determined in the approved plan, the independent governing board established under subsection (a) of this section shall operate subject to the rules, regulations and supervision of the state board of regents in the same manner as other technical colleges, technical schools and area vocational technical schools.~~
- (c) In addition to such powers expressly granted by law and subject to the provisions of subsection (b), the governing body shall have the power to:
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Proposed new first sentence for subsection (b):

- (b) The plan that is approved by the state board of regents shall be agreed to between the technical college board that presents the plan and the state board of regents before it is approved by the state board of regents.

*The plan must be approved by both the technical college board and the state board of regents before it is implemented. Upon implementation of the plan,*

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Attachment 2*

**Senate Education Committee  
Senator Umbarger, Chair**

March 6, 2003  
Lynn Rogers  
USD 259 BOE

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

I was elected to the Wichita Public School Board in 2000 and have recently chaired our taskforce on Transition Issues.

The Board entered that process in good faith so we understood what issues we would face if governance changed.

I say good faith because KBOR told us it was an issue that would come up in the next 3-4 years. And if legislation occurred, it would be permissive.

During our study, we found out the legislation was occurring this year and it was mandatory.

We have tried to be professional and proactive by our task force study. Hundreds of hours were spent by dozens of Wichitans. Our common purpose was what was best for our students, staff and city.

We urge this committee to table SB 7 and ask for a statewide interim study on Technical Colleges be approved.

**SB 7 –**

- Does nothing to the current crazy quilt tech college system. Five (5) year bonding authority?
- Does nothing about post-secondary clock hours
- To help develop rapid response workforce development
- To allow input from tech colleges without taxing authority
- To allow other taxing authorities input on adding another taxing authority
- Does nothing about current bonded indebtedness
- Does nothing to assure tenured staff we want them or need them
- Does nothing to address fundamental flaws in tech education system.

} Major public  
policy  
implication

I have been in banking for 22 years, which means I have been through a number of mergers, acquisitions, divestiture or changes. In a forced takeover, the new organization dictates what will happen. In a merger of equals, both parties sit down and discuss issues.

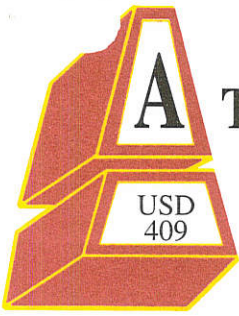
SB 7 does neither of these things, KBOR says we should put our concerns in the plan. However, the BOG will not be able to negotiate anything. For that matter, we don't even know if KBOR can negotiate on any of our concerns. (What if we wanted a Sedgwick County Plan?)

This bill has not been thoroughly researched -- it is a path for the Regents' desire for accreditation, but it ignores the system-wide problems technical education faces. Accreditation in this model is NCA, however, Georgia, which is held out as a national leader in technical education, has all 34 technical colleges under COE accreditation (which is the accreditation WATC currently holds).

My point is: there are alternative paths. Please take your time with this. I think the state of Kansas desires to know what our Tech Education system should look like before we dismantle the current system.

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3-6-03  
Attachment 3*





# ATCHISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

215 N. 8th Street, Atchison, Kansas 66002  
Phone (913) 367-4384 Fax (913) 367-2246  
www.atchison.k12.ks.us

Stephen E. Pummel, Superintendent  
Kathleen A. Lowman, Assistant Superintendent  
Corbin T. Witt, Assistant Superintendent

March 6, 2003

Senator Dwayne Umbarger  
State Capitol  
300 S.W. 10th Avenue, Room 401-S  
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Re: SB 7 - Comments From Atchison Public Schools

Atchison Public Schools currently governs the Northeast Kansas Technical College in Atchison, Kansas. This has been a positive relationship for the school district and community. Listed below are some highlights to support this statement.

- Atchison Public Schools has governed the Technical College since its opening in 1967. The School Board was instrumental in obtaining this school for the community. The Technical College is located directly across the street from Atchison High School, thus allowing students walking access to the College.
- The enrollment at the Technical College continues to flourish. We have experienced exceptional growth over the last few years. See attached enrollment summary. We anticipate this enrollment growth to continue.
- New programs continue to be developed at the Technical College. These programs directly reflect community needs. New programs initiated in the last few years are Computer Repair Technology (in Atchison and Leavenworth), Masonry, and Machine Tool Technology.
- Atchison Public Schools recently purchased a 17,400 square foot facility to create a new "Construction Trades" center. We currently have industrial electricity and masonry housed at this facility. We are proposing to add Building Trades for the 2003-04 school year and Heating/Ventilating and Air Conditioning Program for the 2004-05 school year.

Note: We have received \$120,000 in local grants to begin these two new programs. We also receive an Innovation in Education Grant through the Kansas State Department of Education for \$25,000 for the industrial electricity program.

- Our local Board of Education sees the Technical College as an extension of K-12 education. We have a Board goal examining ways to increase secondary student

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Senator Dwayne Umbarger

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attendance, thus providing a seamless curriculum. This allows our students that would not normally attend any post-secondary school the opportunity to gain a skill and enter the local workforce. The community benefits from a better-trained work force.

- Our Board of Education would like to continue the governance of the Technical College.

Senate Bill 7 proposes to change the current governance structure. We believe that this legislation is moving too quickly and questions need to be answered. Questions that need to be answered:

1. How would this change of governance improve the function of this Technical College at the local level?
2. Have all four technical colleges that SB 7 affect been involved in discussion about the impact to the students, school, and community?
3. The Technical College has been governed efficiently by the Atchison School Board. How would removing this school from Atchison's governance and appointing a separate and independent board improve the function of this school?
4. Northeast Kansas Technical College operates efficiently noting enrollment growth and new program growth as evidences of success. How would the increased bureaucracy of this move improve the function of this school?
5. Future funding associated with the change of governance has not been examined. We question if adequate funding, noting the tight finance in the State, would be available to adequately maintain the increased costs that are currently provided by the School District. How will the additional funding needed for the Technical College be addressed?

On behalf of the Board of Education, we believe that SB 7 needs further study, examination, and individual school analysis to determine the best governance structure. The Northeast Kansas Technical College continues to show marked student enrollment increases, new program development, and new facility purchases. We request additional time and study to determine the impact that this legislation may have on the Northeast Kansas Technical College.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen Pummel  
Superintendent of Schools

SP:bs

## ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

### Fall 2001 to Fall 2002 (1 year)

- ☞ Fall 2002 FTE increased by 8% from fall of 2001
- ☞ Fall 2002 Headcount increased by 3% from fall of 2001

### Fall 1998 to Fall 2002 (5years)

- ☞ Fall 2002 FTE increased by 33% from fall of 1998
- ☞ Fall 2002 Headcount increased by 32% from the fall of 1998

### Spring 2002 to Spring 2003 (1 year)

- ☞ Spring 2003 FTE decreased by 2% from spring of 2002
- ☞ Spring 2003 Headcount decreased by .5% from Spring 2002

### FY03 Retention Figures

- ☞ FTE retention rate from Fall 2002 to Spring 2003 is 87%
- ☞ Headcount retention rate from Fall 2002 to Spring 2003 is 91%
- ☞ Fall Enrollments for FY03 have reached an all time high for three consecutive years.

### PROGRAMS WITH INCREASED ENROLLMENTS From Fall 2001 to Fall 2002

Program	Percent of Change (FTE)	Percent of Change (Headcount)
Automotive Collision	60% increase	55% increase
Automotive Technology	47% increase	66% increase
Diesel Technology	27% increase	9% increase
Food & Beverage Management	0% increase	9% increase
Electrical Technology	40% increase	35% increase
Masonry	118% increase	100% increase
Paralegal	50% increase	55% increase
Practical Nursing	12% increase	12% increase

### PROGRAMS WITH INCREASED ENROLLMENTS From Fall 2002 to Spring 2003

Program	Percent of Change (FTE)	Percent of Change (Headcount)
Administrative Assistant	26% increase	25% increase
Computer Aided Drafting	7% increase	7% increase
Electrical Technology	12% increase	11% increase
Medical Office Assistant	7% increase	13% increase
Paralegal	27% increase	27% increase

\*Note:

Diesel Technology and Paralegal enrollments remained stable between the Fall and Spring semesters.



Senate Education Committee  
Testimony presented Thursday March 6, 1:30

Lee V. Alderman, Ph.D.  
President  
Flint Hills Technical College  
3301 West 18th Avenue  
Emporia, KS 66801  
620-341-2300  
Fax: 620-343-7252  
[lalderma@fhc.kansas.net](mailto:lalderma@fhc.kansas.net)  
[www.fhc.kansas.net](http://www.fhc.kansas.net)

Chairman Umbarger,  
Vice-Chair Vratil  
Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present information to you regarding SB7. My comments today are brief.

As you know, SB7 allows technical colleges to become autonomous from unified school districts and school boards. In addition, SB 7 furthers legislation passed several years ago in the form of SB 345. By implementing SB7 a more seamless system of higher education, that is even more efficient than the current system, could be implemented and would provide widespread benefits to many Kansans. We also firmly believe that, as technical colleges, we are vital contributors to economic and workforce development in the state. We support passage of SB7.

I would like to add clarification to 5 (five) points of interest presented in the testimony by representatives from Wichita USD and Atchison USD.

1. Bond funds received by USD's for technical college use, before the technical colleges separate from USD's, can still be used by the technical colleges. For example, Emporia USD 253 received \$35 million and plans to use \$5.8 million of it for new construction and remodeling at Flint Hills Technical College. The construction will not be finished until 2005 and the bonds will not be paid off until 20 (twenty) years later. Of its own accord, USD 253 plans to lease the buildings to Flint Hills Technical College for 1 (one) dollar for 99 (ninety-nine) years. This will ensure that the voter's wishes for the bond funds are fulfilled.
2. Accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA) allows for technical colleges with multiple sites to have one centralized library at a main campus. Library materials can be catalogued on one centralized system within the technical college. After the library materials are catalogued they can then be loaned out to the other sites on a permanent basis. The goal is to allow all students access to the technical colleges library resources.

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Attachment 5

3. SB-7 gives the technical colleges 2 (two) years to develop and submit a proposal, that outlines a plan to gain autonomy from their local USD board of education, to the Kansas Board of Regents. The Regents have developed an internal policy about NCA-HLC accreditation that gives the technical colleges another 4 (four) years after they submit their autonomy plan to have the plan fully implemented. In essence, this gives the technical colleges 6 (six) years to bring their autonomy to full execution. The result is that ample time appears to be built into SB-7 and the Regents plan to allow technical colleges and USD's to provide solutions to autonomy issues.
4. Technical colleges have spent years building relationships with USD's in their area so that 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students can get a quality education from the technical college. After autonomy from the USD is accomplished technical colleges plan to continue to offer that same educational opportunity to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Nothing is planned to change our relationship with local USD's and their ability to send students to our programs.
5. Accreditation from a regional accrediting body such as NCA-HLC is crucial for our students if they plan to transfer from technical colleges to four-year institutions. Numerous states have excellent models of articulation agreements with technical colleges that are accredited by a regional accrediting body. The Council on Occupational Education (COE) is a national accrediting body that allows a technical college to offer financial aid. National accrediting bodies such as COE do not provide a mechanism like the regional accrediting bodies do that allows for full articulation from a technical college to a four-year institution. In summary, it is important for the technical colleges to be regionally accredited by NCA-HLC to create the seamless postsecondary education system in the state of Kansas.

As a public institution our mission is to offer affordable, applicable education. The increasing cost of providing technical education in the face of declining resources has resulted in a sense of helplessness as we attempt to meet the student and industry demands of our state. Reductions experienced in fiscal year '03 were absorbed in light of the poor economy. These cuts have resulted in increased amounts of deferred maintenance and decreased quality of programs as a whole. Fulfilling our mission as a public institution has been jeopardized.

In light of these budgetary constraints and with the passage of SB 7, we encourage consideration of giving local levy authority to technical colleges once they become autonomous. We support local control because of the synergy that results. Our institutions must be able to provide programs that are high-tech and that produce highly skilled employees that meet the ever-increasing demands of business and industry.

Given all of this, the bottom line remains that we support passage of SB 7 and all the potential it encompasses. Thank you for the opportunity present to you today.