

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:38 p.m. on March 12, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood  
Mark Tallman, KASB

Others attending: See attached list

**HB 2231—allowing school districts to charge a fee for preschools; certain limitations**

Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood presented testimony in favor of **HB2231**. Current law allows local school districts to charge parents for child care services. This bill would simply expand that optional practice to include pre-school services. Reports are that many areas do not have adequate opportunities for children to attend quality preschools. **HB2231** would enable school districts to provide this service where needed. Benefits would be the increased opportunity for young children to receive early learning services not currently available and there would be a greater number of options available for placements of children who are to receive service under IDEA. Research is proving that the early years are critical to the success of our young children in school and in life. (Attachment 1) Committee discussion followed.

Mark Tallman, KASB, testified in support of **HB2231**. KASB supported legislation that authorized school districts to establish childcare centers and collect fees to offset the costs of these programs. As they understand the bill, it would clarify that the authority to provide childcare centers includes preschool programs. (Attachment 2)

Dale Dennis provided verification that current law does allow preschool programs, and stated the **HB2231** is only an issue of fees.

Val Defever, former member of the State Board of Education, offered comments of how important early intervention is and that it would help the schools meet the mandates of No Child Left Behind. Val stated that there are needs in many communities.

Hearings were closed on **HB2231**.

Senator Schodorf made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5 and March 6, 2003. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

Chairman Umbarger announced the agenda for Thursday, March 13, 2003 and adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123S.





**TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON HB 2231  
March 12, 2003**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Doug Bowman, and I am staff to the Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services. The Council has the statutory mission to advise state government on all matters pertaining to children aged birth through five years with (or at risk of) developmental delay/disabilities.

Current law (K.S.A. 72-8236) allows local school districts to charge parents for child care services. HB 2231 would simply extend that optional practice to include preschool services.

We hear reports that many Kansas communities do not have adequate opportunities for children to attend quality preschools. HB 2231 would enable local school districts to provide these vital services. The modest fees paid by parents would provide a small funding stream to offset operating expenses. This bill should not impact the state's budget in any manner. No fiscal note!!

Among the benefits to be derived from this proposal are: the increased opportunity for young children to receive early learning services not currently available. Additionally, there would be a greater number of options available for placements of children who are to receive services under IDEA. Current statistics show far too many Kansas preschool children receive their early intervention services in a setting with few (if any) typically developing peers to serve as role models.

It is not our intent to compete with existing preschool services, but to enable schools to fill a recognized community need. In regards to regulations, this bill creates a level playing field. Preschools operated by schools would be treated no differently than privately operated preschools. The teaching staff hired by school operated preschools would have to meet a higher standard than privately operated preschools under the soon-to-be implemented teacher licensing standards.

Increasingly, research is proving that the early years are critical to the success of our children in schools..... and in life. We respectfully submit this bill for your careful consideration.



KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION



OF  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS

1420 SW Arrowhead Road • Topeka, Kansas 66604-4024  
785-273-3600

Testimony on  
**HB 2231 – School District Preschool Program**  
Before the  
**Senate Committee on Education**

By  
Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy

March 12, 2003

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today on HB 2231. KASB supported the legislation that authorized school districts to establish childcare centers and to collect fees to offset the costs of these programs. We believe that this is an important service to parents. In some communities, the school may be in the best position to provide this service.

As we understand the purpose of this bill, it would clarify that the authority to offer childcare programs includes preschool programs. We would support that effort. In the House Committee, we supported the amendment that struck language prohibiting school districts from charging fees for special education students. Under current law, special education students cannot be charged fees for services that are part of a free, appropriate public education. However, we believe school districts should be able to charge fees for non-educational services, such as childcare. The sponsors and the House Committee concurred.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Senate Education  
3-12-03  
Attachment 2*